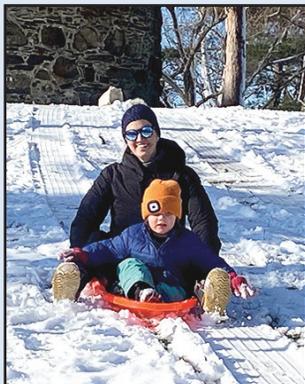




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\$2.4M secured for Clarendon Hill Housing community



Federal funding for redevelopment of the Clarendon Hill housing community was announced at a press conference led by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley — Photo by Bobbie Toner

On Thursday, January 4, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (MA-07) visited Somerville to celebrate the \$2.4 million in federal funding she secured to support the community-led transformation of the Clarendon Hill housing community, an ethnically, linguistically and economically diverse neighborhood in Somerville.

The federal dollars delivered by Rep. Pressley will help increase safe and affordable housing, promote accessibility for residents with disabilities, and support the development of green and open community space for residents.

Rep. Pressley was joined for a roundtable discussion and press conference by Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, Diane Cohen, Executive Director of the Somerville Housing Authority, Cory Mian and Rodger Brown of Preservation. *Continued on page 4*

Nonprofit Groundwork Somerville works to promote a sustainable future

By Bridget Frawley

Groundwork Somerville is a nonprofit organization dedicated to facilitating environmental sustainability and food justice in the Somerville community. It approaches this goal through the avenues of youth education, community engagement and urban farming.

Urban Agriculture and Green Spaces Director Leah McCarthy joined Groundwork Somerville last April. Prior to working with the organization, she volunteered on an urban farm in Montreal where she ran an afterschool program to teach youth about climate justice. McCarthy educated through a culinary lens by preparing meals with the students and teaching them about the ingredients used.

"I love the nature of gardening" *Continued on page 5*



Members of the Groundwork Somerville Green Team program. — Photo courtesy of Kenzie Ballard

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The views and opinions expressed in Newstalk do not necessarily reflect those of The Somerville Times, its publisher or staff. The column has many contributors.

The Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development is working to update the city's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP). This plan will guide the next seven years of city work on parks, sports fields, open space, conservation land, and recreational programming, and it needs your input. Attend an upcoming in-person or virtual community meeting to share your thoughts on open space. First up is on **Wednesday, January 10**, at **Somerville Public Library West Branch** (40 College Ave.) from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Give feedback now through the OSRP survey or visit the project page <https://voice.somervillema.gov/open-space-and-recreation-plan-update> to learn more.

The Somerville Museum presents a **Community Collaboration Project** with Somerville's **Padres Latinos**. Padres Latinos is a mutual aid group of more than 230 Spanish and Portuguese-speaking parents with children in the Somerville Public Schools (SPS). **Museo Inmigrante** opening reception: **Thursday, January 11**, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Admission to the reception is being generously sponsored by **New England Biolabs** on behalf of Padres Latinos.

Happy birthday this week to several locals: Happy birthday to **Katie McDaid**. We wish her a very happy birthday. Happy birthday to retired high school teacher **Marion Joyce**. We hope she enjoys her day. Happy birthday **Ken Kotch**, a great photographer, we hope he has a nice day. Happy birthday to **Phil Forsyth**, *Continued on page 7*

Somerville Weather Forecast

for the week of January 10 – January 16 as provided by the National Weather Service

DAY	CONDITIONS	HIGH/LOW	PRECIPITATION	HUMIDITY	WIND
Wednesday January 10	Partly Cloudy	53°/35°	22%	15%	SW 19 mph
Thursday January 11	Partly Cloudy	43°/31°	4%	2%	SW 12 mph
Friday January 12	Sunny	43°/33°	4%	3%	W 10 mph
Saturday January 13	Rain	55°/28°	90%	81%	S 21 mph
Sunday January 14	Partly Cloudy	32°/24°	2%	1%	W 17 mph
Monday January 15	Partly Cloudy	37°/25°	19%	14%	SW 13 mph
Tuesday January 16	Snow	31°/20°	59%	42%	WNW 15 mph

NOTE: Conditions subject to change. Always check a daily forecast prior to activities that can be affected by the weather.

TheSomervilleTimes.com Comments of the Week

Response to: Somerville opening overnight warming center to serve community for 2024 winter season

Slaw says:

Better late than never but there really need to be more permanent facilities.

What happened to the supervised consumption site plan too?

Log onto TheSomervilleTimes.com to leave your own comments

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Christmas tree disposal guidelines

A reminder that Christmas tree pick up is underway in Somerville.

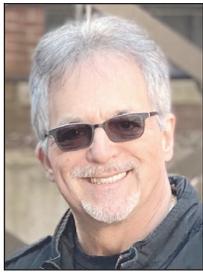
Trees can be placed curbside on your regular trash day after removing all decorations. Do not put trees in a plastic bag. Constituents should contact 311 (617-666-3311) if their tree has been out for over two weeks.

— Photo by Bobbie Toner



Life in the  **VILLE** by Jimmy Del Ponte

The big storm?



Saturday, 6:00 p.m. Here we are expecting our first significant snowstorm in two years and everybody's parked on the even side of the street. I don't know

where people find parking spaces during snow emergencies but they do. Too bad they have the old Star Market on Broadway all fenced in because that would've been a good place to park during the storm.

Right now it's 6:00 o'clock Saturday evening and we're waiting for the first flakes to fall. Let's see how we do with the first real snow storm we've had in a couple of years.

I know the stores were pretty crowded yesterday from what I heard. Of course, we had to hear the regular amount of hype on TV. Every channel a bit different.

Saturday, 8:30, 36°: There are still a few cars parked on the web side. No flakes yet.

12:30 a.m.: Seems like light rain, everything is wet. No flakes yet.

1:30 a.m.: Lots of wet flakes are now falling.

2:09 a.m.: Here it comes. It's falling heavily and sticking. It's coming down pretty good now.

3:00 a.m., 35°: And it's really coming down. No plow action yet.

5:00 a.m.: Absolutely not one bit of precipitation at this time. The small amount of snow on the street appears to have been plowed. You can see black.

5:35 a.m.: Still no flakes.

6:00 a.m.: Sleet.

6:00 a.m.: Back to snow again.

7:30 a.m.: Snowing like crazy. Wet snow.

By 10:00 a.m. it's back to light snow.

"I wonder where everyone parked. This Somerville Facebook friend posted this:

"I think if you're parked on a residential street during a snow emergency and take up two spots, you should be towed. It's rude, inconsiderate, and ignorant. There are two cars on my street that are both taking up two spots and it's on the side for the snow emergency. It's just very rude considering how awful parking is already."

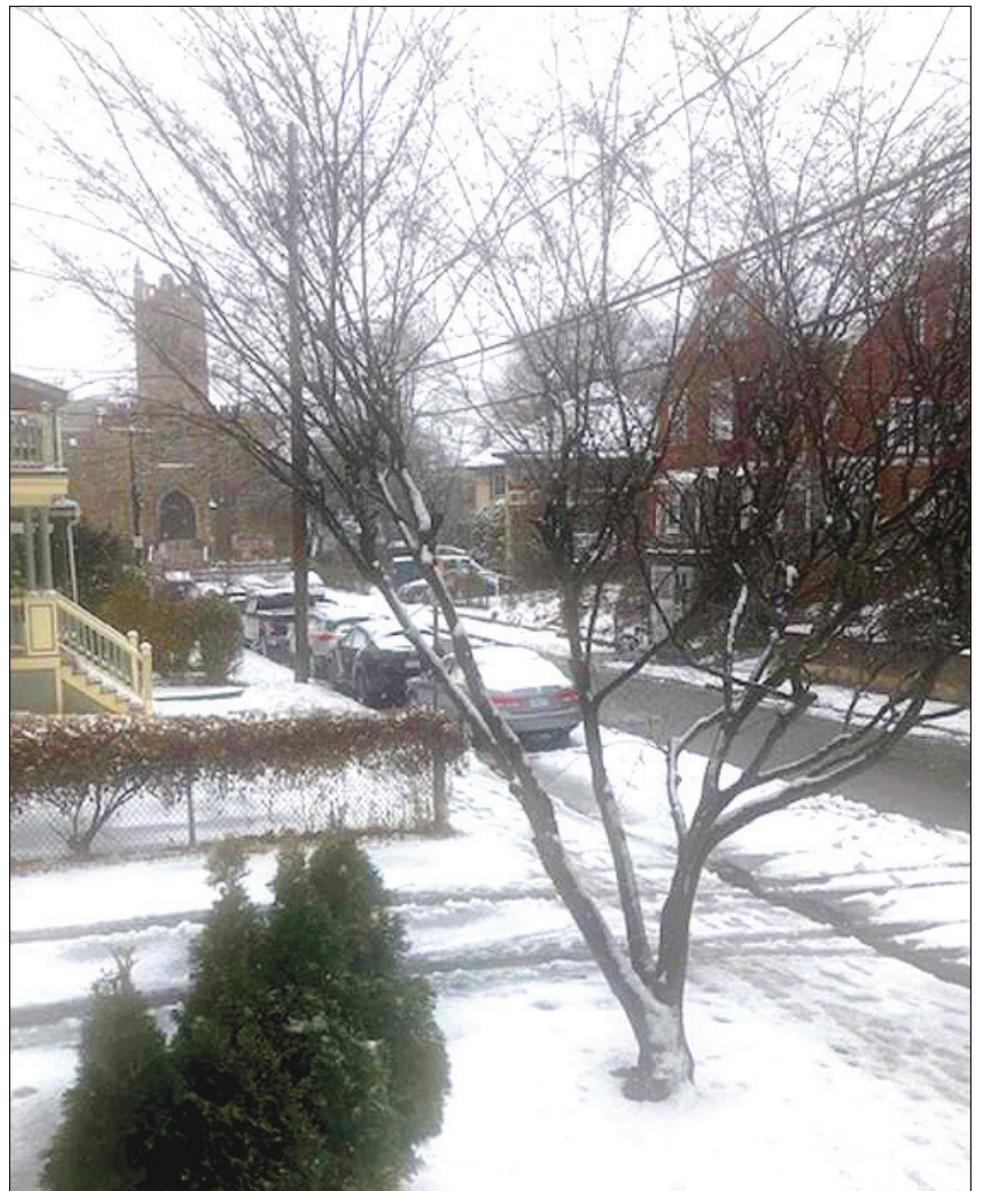
My weather app on my cell phone says it's supposed to stop around 8:00 p.m. We'll see.

Did this storm constitute a snow emergency?

It finally stopped by 4:00 p.m.

And there you have it. By Monday it was very icy. Hopefully the sun will loosen some of it up. We all survived the big snowstorm.

Wednesday is supposed to be in the 50s. Can't wait.



Somerville opening overnight warming center

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, the City of Somerville's Health and Human Services Office, and Housing Families, are announcing the opening of an overnight warming center for the remainder of the winter 2024 season.

Started on Monday tonight, January 8, the warming center will operate seven nights a week from 6:45 p.m. to 7 a.m., on the second floor of the Armory (191 Highland Ave). The center is scheduled to conclude operations on Sunday, March 24, 2024.

"The opening of our overnight warming center reflects Somerville's commitment to providing not just shelter, but also dignity, compassion, and supportive services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness," said Mayor Ballantyne. "I want to thank City staff, and our partners at Housing Families, for their collaboration in opening this potentially life-saving center. Because of their hard work, the city can now provide warmth, safety, and community for any adult resident that needs help this winter."

Warming center guests will also have access to free hot and cold meals, water, bathrooms, yoga mats, and space to sleep. The space is equipped to support up to twenty adults on a nightly basis.

The warming center will only be available to adults experiencing homelessness. For families or those with children, please contact the Somerville Office of Housing Stability by calling 617-625-6600, Ext. 2581 for referral to family resources and shelters.

For questions regarding the Somerville Overnight Warming Center, please visit somervillema.gov/warmingcenter or contact Somerville 311(627-666-3311)



\$2.4M secured for Clarendon Hill Housing community CONT. FROM PG 1

of Affordable Housing (POAH), Gonzalo Puigbo, Chief Executive Officer of the Somerville Community Corporation, and Somerville elected officials, housing advocates, and community leaders.

“Housing and transit are two resources that can radically transform communities when we invest in them, and the Clarendon Hill project sits at the intersection of both,” said Rep. Pressley. “As we work in Congress to advance bold, long-term federal investments in affordable housing and public transit as a public good, I’m so proud to deliver these much-needed resources to support Somerville residents and change and save lives in the short-term. I’m grateful to Mayor Ballantyne, Somerville city officials, and our housing advocates for their partnership on this important project – a direct investment in our people and a testament to our model of cooperative governing.”

“As we launched this project, 92% of the housing units now being built anew were women-led households, with 87% women of color. Clarendon is one of the happiest projects that I’ve had the honor to work on because it’s usually the women, especially low-income women and women of color, that get second-tier treatment – but not this time,” said Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne. “What

was once deteriorated, unsuitable housing will now be new, healthy homes, in fossil-fuel-free LEED platinum buildings surrounded by great outdoor space and safer streets. Thank you so much to Rep. Pressley not just for securing critical funds for this vital project but for always standing up for affordable housing, low-income families, sustainability, and safe transit. This project can now continue building for the future both of Clarendon residents as well as our Commonwealth.”

“The Somerville Housing Authority is grateful for the \$2.4 million dollars in funding for the Clarendon Hill Housing and Transportation Equity Project,” said Diane Cohen, Executive Director, Somerville Housing Authority. “As Congresswoman Pressley remarked, the funding will support the newly developed mixed income Clarendon Hill development with improved traffic flow, access to community walking and biking paths and open space. This sense of belonging, connection and equity is transformative for all.”

“POAH greatly appreciates the leadership from Congresswoman Pressley to secure federal funding for this critical affordable housing development,” said Cory Mian, Senior Vice President for Real Estate Development at Preservation of Affordable Housing



Somerville Mayor Katjana Ballantyne attended the roundtable discussion along with other city officials.

(POAH). “When combined with funding from the City of Somerville, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and private sector investments, it will provide high quality, energy-efficient housing for current and future residents of Clarendon Hill and will serve as a model for revitalizing public housing.”

“Clarendon Hill is an amazing, thoughtful, impactful project that brought together all the key developments needed in Somerville around affordable housing, traffic, climate and equity,” said Gonzalo Puigbo,

Chief Executive Officer, Somerville Community Corporation. “The most beautiful part of our work was the ability to hear our residents’ needs and deliver for them with the support of the government, state, city, private and non-profit sector. It shows that when we put our minds together, we allow for equity to happen, we can work together to solve a very difficult problem around affordable housing, and build a community that cares.”

Video footage from the roundtable is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MUFv0tdBASs>.

Rep. Pressley secured the federal funding for the Clarendon Hill housing development in the FY23 federal budget that was signed into law by President Biden last December. Rep. Pressley secured millions for 15 community projects across the Massachusetts 7th Congressional District in this major Congressional appropriations bill, capping off nearly a year of advocacy by the Congresswoman and local leaders.

In December, Rep. Pressley visited Brighton to celebrate \$400,000 she delivered for Amplify Latinx’s ALX Small Business Program.

In November, Rep. Pressley visited Roxbury Community

College (RCC) to celebrate \$1 million in federal community project funding she secured for Northeastern University’s Roxbury Associate’s to Master’s Workforce Accelerator (RA2MWA).

In June, Rep. Pressley visited Chelsea to celebrate \$2,000,000 in federal community project funding she secured to improve the Broadway Corridor—home to an array of BIPOC-owned small businesses, vibrant public spaces, high frequency public transit routes, and dense residential housing.

In April, Rep. Pressley visited Randolph to celebrate \$524,000 she secured for Randolph Public Schools to support a mobile library and STEM programming.

In March, Rep. Pressley visited Dorchester to celebrate \$250,000 in new Community Project Funding she secured for Big Sister Association of Greater Boston’s one-to-one mentoring and enrichment programs for girls.

In February, Rep. Pressley visited the African Community Economic Development of New England (ACEDONE) to celebrate the \$643,003 in community project funding she secured for ACEDONE to support small businesses in predominately Black, brown and African immigrant communities.



Union Square's first large-scale pop-up community center opens

CultureHouse and the Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC) announced today that CultureHouse Union Square, a large-scale pop-up community center created by and for the community, will open on January 10 in what was originally a vacant storefront at 64 Union Square.

The pop-up is a one-stop shop for community resources, diverse programming, events, workshops for all ages, and a gathering space for the community. CultureHouse Union Square will be open Wednesdays through Sundays from 1:00 to 8:00 pm and run through June 9. CultureHouse and USNC will host an opening celebration on Friday, January 12, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm, with local eats and refreshments, music, and art displays.

The goal of the Union Square community pop-up is to connect

new and old residents and create a shared identity for the neighborhood, pilot a community-driven space, and create an operational framework for a long-term community space.

CultureHouse Union Square will host art workshops for children hosted by neighborhood residents, Sunday night jazz performances, and local vendors to community resources and trainings around tenants' rights and more. This project has been funded by an American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant from the City of Somerville.

"Integrating long-term residents and newcomers into the community fabric of Union Square is critical for a more connected community in a rapidly changing neighborhood," said Ann Camara, Co-Chair of the Union Square Neighborhood

Council. "And CultureHouse Union Square will help uplift and strengthen that integral community fabric for residents of Union Square.

"We're excited to work with CultureHouse to bring this pop-up to life, grateful for all the community members who have contributed to help shape the vision of the space and what we hope will ultimately help inform a long-term community center in the increasingly inclusive and vibrant neighborhood and commercial center that is Union Square," said Michele Hansen, Co-Chair of the Union Square Neighborhood Council.

A community input phase to help shape and inform the project launched in the fall of 2024, inviting community members to be part of the process and share their input to help shape the



free-to-enter intergenerational pop-up public space pilot. Community engagement also included a 'build day,' where community members visited the location to interact with and react to the space and support the hands-on build-out of the pop-up.

"Helping improve local communities by transforming underutilized spaces into vibrant social infrastructure informed by and for the community has always been at the core of our work," said Rishika Dhawan, Community Manager at *Continued on page 9*

Nonprofit Groundwork Somerville works to promote a sustainable future CONT. FROM PG 1

and farming," McCarthy said. "And I thought it was a powerful tool to feel connected and like we are a part of the Earth."

McCarthy's role revolves around the nonprofit's two urban farm sites that make up South Street Farm. She uses the farm as an educational site to inform the community about the local food system and how it promotes a more sustainable future.

"I view my role as one of facilitating," McCarthy said. "Making our foods comfortable, drawing people in and allowing them to experience the power of having your hands in the dirt and growing your own food."

There was a fire at South Street Farm in November that burned camping gear, painting supplies and bikes that were used for the nonprofit's youth programs.

"That was definitely unfortunate, but, in the end, it ended up bringing a lot of attention to the farm and to our mission," McCarthy said. "It motivated our team

to think more broadly about what we want this space to look like and what we can do to facilitate these changes that we're hoping can happen in our community."

Groundwork Somerville's Green Team youth program employs 10 to 20 teenagers to work on urban and school gardens and are educated on topics of environmental and food justice. Youth Engagement and Programs Director Kenzie Ballard joined the organization in June, and has since expanded the Green Team to also be offered in the spring as opposed to only the summer.

Ballard also created a Green Team biking division program where five teenagers are taught about bike repair and fix donated bikes that are afterward redistributed to the community. The division is in partnership with Somerville Bike Kitchen, Somerville Education Foundation, and the Dojo at Somernova.

"Our youth are experiencing climate injustice and food injus-

tice in their communities in their day to day living in food insecure households or areas in Somerville that are greater impacted by climate impacts," Ballard said. "They're feeling these negative impacts and they want to make a change and they have the power to make a change."

The nonprofit also educates the community through events like the Harvest Festival that took place in August. Close to 200 attendees filled South Street Farm to participate in six workshops that used the farm's produce for culinary demonstrations. Community members prepared salsa, roasted corn and fermented berries for jam while learning about food sustainability.

Promoting food justice is another goal of the organization that Climate Safe Neighborhoods and Community Engagement Director Sophie Cash has worked toward since her time at Vassar College for Environmental Studies

"I was raised with a White en-

vironmentalism, but also a deep sense of social justice. In college, I began to understand the deep connections between those two and how they (have) been separated on purpose in order to keep systemic oppression going," Cash said. "They have to be addressed in tandem. When we do, that's when we can get the most exciting solutions, the ones that center and benefit people."

In her role, Cash researches neighborhoods with racially motivated land use practices and works to spread awareness on climate vulnerability in such areas including flooding, pollution and urban heat islands. As part of the Climate Safe Neighborhoods program, Cash is centering her research around East Somerville and utilizing data to create a story map that will tell the narrative of the area as a culturally and economically diverse neighborhood in the city.

"My lived experience is not necessarily exactly what people who

live in East Somerville have experienced," Cash said. "But I want to bring resources, organizing energy and capacity to help make sure that those voices are leading systemic change conversations."

In the new year, Executive Director Aisha Sanders is focused on increasing the organization's accessibility to the public through efforts like making part of South Street Farm a community garden. McCarthy is also curating an educational series of various workshops at the farm that include working with plants that reflects Somerville's cultural diversity.

"We are passionate about engaging in the community and allowing community members, especially the most vulnerable, to self-advocate," Sanders said. "We don't feel like our role is to go in and be that voice. Our role is to gather the community together and support them and give them the tools and resources ... to uplift the voices of the community members."

Beacon Hill Roll Call



Volume 49 – Report No. 1 • January 1-5, 2024 • Copyright © 2024 Beacon Hill Roll Call. All Rights Reserved. By Bob Katzen

Beacon Hill Roll Call can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com

With today's edition, we begin coverage of the 2024 Massachusetts legislative session with our weekly *Beacon Hill Roll Call* report. This feature is a clear and concise compilation of the voting records of local state representatives and senators.

Beacon Hill Roll Call provides an unbiased summary of bills and amendments, arguments from floor debate on both sides of the issue and each legislator's vote or lack of vote on the matter. This information gives readers an opportunity to monitor their elected officials' actions on Beacon Hill. Many bills are reported on in their early stages, giving readers the opportunity to contact their legislators and express an opinion prior to the measure being brought up for final action.

The feature "Also Up on Beacon Hill" informs readers of other important matters at the Statehouse.

Beacon Hill Roll Call is written and provided by Bob Katzen, a former Boston radio talk show host at WRKO, WMEX, WITS and WMRE. Bob has been providing this feature to hundreds of newspapers across the Bay State for 49 years, since 1975.

Bob was inducted into the New England Newspaper and Press Association (NENPA) Hall of Fame in 2019.

Bob invented the "Bagel Route" when he was 10 years old. It's like a paper route but Bob took pre-orders from neighbors and delivered fresh bagels every Sunday morning.

THE HOUSE AND SENATE: *Beacon Hill Roll Call* records local senators' votes from the week of January 1-5. There were no roll calls in the House last week.

WHEELCHAIR WARRANTY AND REPAIRS (S 2541)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill that would strengthen consumer protections for wheelchair users. Current state law does not set any timeline for assessing repairs, does not require dealers to offer wheelchairs on loan within a fixed time period and only requires customized wheelchairs to come with express warranties.

Provisions of the bill include requiring that wheelchair manufacturers, lessors and dealers provide customers with written notification of the warranty for their wheelchairs; increasing the minimum duration for any warranty from one year to two years; mandating that if an in-warranty wheelchair stops functioning, manufacturers, lessors and dealers must assess the wheelchair within three days, provide a temporary wheelchair on loan within four days and cover any other costs to the user; and authorizing the attorney general and consumers to bring legal actions

against any violation of provisions protecting wheelchair users from unfair and deceptive business practices relating to warranty-fulfillment.

Supporters said wheelchair repairs pose substantial problems for people with physical disabilities. They noted that it is not uncommon for those who use wheelchairs to wait for weeks for repairs. This leaves these individuals stranded at home and unable to go to work, school, medical appointments, grocery shopping or elsewhere. This creates a crisis for individuals and families and often exacerbates other health conditions. Existing state law does not set any timeline for assessing repairs or require dealers to offer wheelchairs on loan within a fixed time period.

"Wheelchair users in Massachusetts with broken chairs can wait weeks or months for repairs because the law today provides inadequate consumer protections in a consolidated, uncompetitive market," said sponsor Sen. John Cronin (D-Fitchburg). "This bill allows wheelchair users to regain their mobility, their independence and their dignity by requiring timely repair service."

"Today the Senate took action to give individuals who use wheelchairs the protections they deserve," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "If a wheelchair breaks down, a user should be able to get it fixed and get back to their daily life as soon as possible, and the commonwealth of Massachusetts should have every user's back."

"I'm delighted the Senate took the lead on this highly empowering legislation," said Sen. Mike Rodrigues (D-Westport) Chair of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means. "Not only does this bill provide uniformity with neighboring states on wheelchair warranties, but it effectively expedites repair time and mandates a solid reimbursement safety net. It's a big win for wheelchair users across the commonwealth."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

AUTISM AND POLICE (S 2542)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House a bill designed to improve interactions between police officers and persons with autism spectrum disorder during traffic stops. The measure, dubbed the "Blue Envelope" Bill would create a voluntary program giving people with the disorder the option to be given a special blue envelope that holds the person's driver's license, vehicle registration and insurance cards. On the outside of the envelope there would be specific instructions for police officers on the driver's diagnosis, impairments, triggers, emergency

contact information and best practices for communicating. The bill is designed to enable the driver to quickly and easily hand the envelope to a police officer during a traffic stop.

"The Blue Envelope Bill will make our commonwealth a safer place for people who are neuro-diverse," said sponsor Sen. Jo Comerford (D-Northampton). "It moves us closer to equal opportunity and access for people of all abilities."

"The Blue Envelope Bill would be a game changer for our family and for so many Massachusetts residents," said Ilyse Levine-Kanji, an Executive Committee member of Advocates for Autism of Massachusetts. "Like many people with autism, my 25-year-old son Sam does not have any physical characteristics that indicate he has autism."

Levine-Kanji continued, "In a stressful situation, where split second decisions must be made, I'm relieved that a police officer could see a blue envelope in Sam's car and immediately understand that any unusual behavior or speech pattern is a result of autism. Thus, this bill could dramatically decrease the possibility of a tragic misunderstanding."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

LEGALIZE FENTANYL TEST STRIPS (S 2543)

Senate 39-0, approved and sent to the House legislation that would legalize the sale, possession and distribution of fentanyl test strips as well as other testing equipment used to identify fentanyl in a drug. The measure includes a "Good Samaritan" provision that exempts from liability "any person who, in good faith provides, administers or utilizes fentanyl test strips or any testing equipment or devices solely used, intended for use or designed to be used to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl or its analogues."

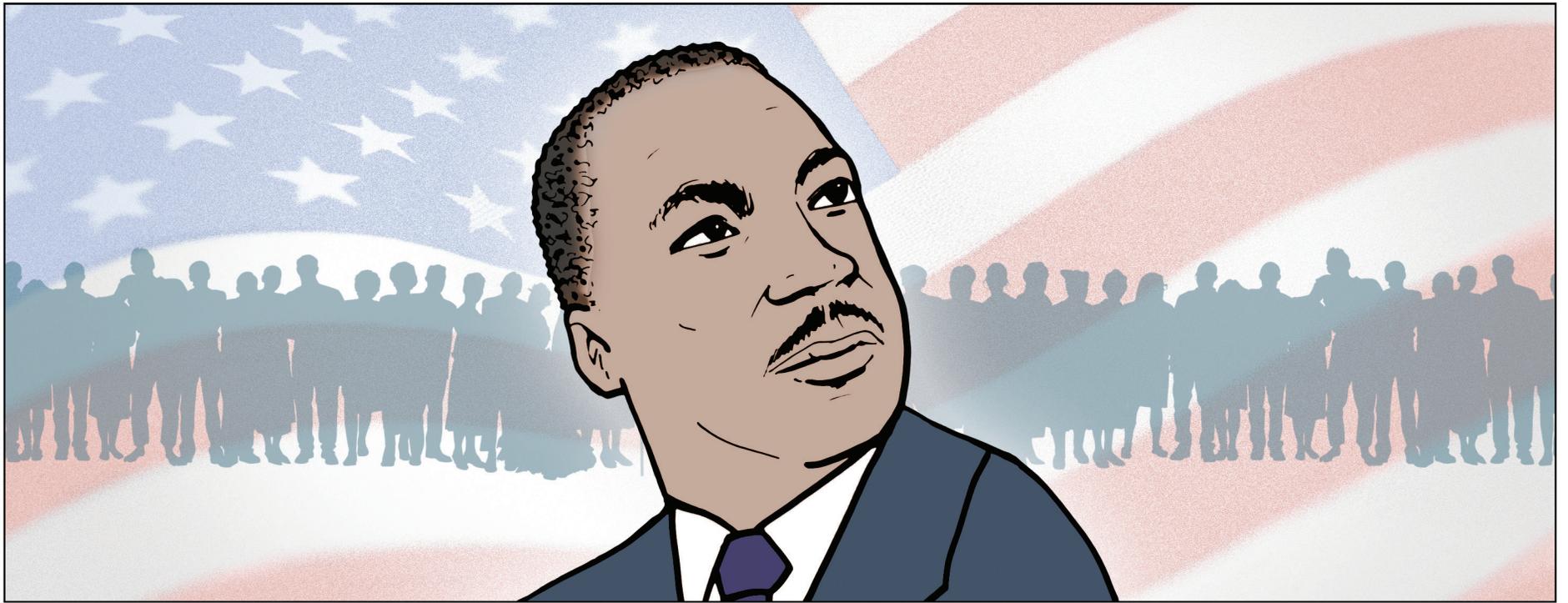
Supporters said that fentanyl test strips help prevent overdoses by enabling drug users to determine whether a substance contains fentanyl, the opioid that was present in 93 percent of fatal overdoses in the first three months of 2023. They said that under current law fentanyl test strips are considered drug paraphernalia – causing police departments and harm reduction organizations that are interested in distributing them to be concerned that the distribution would subject them to criminal or civil liability.

"The idea for this bill came to me from Newton Police Chief John Carmichael," said sponsor Sen. Cindy Creem (D-Newton). "The department wanted" *Continued on page 18*

COMMENTARY

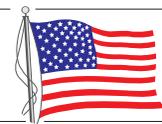
SIGNS OF THE TIMES

Illustrated by Jim Clark



Somerville honors the life and achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Our View Of The Times



The annual celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day reminds us of the importance of tolerance and embracing diversity in this modern age, just as it was in the days when Dr. King walked among us.

The civil rights movement of the 60s may seem like a distant and detached part of American history for some, perhaps as remote as the civil war itself in the minds of the young who did not live in that time.

And yet, there was never a time in our history when the principles involved in that struggle were more relevant and meaningful than today, and even more so as we step forward into the future.

The great melting pot that is at the heart of the American dream is constantly tasked with the challenge of people of mixed racial, ethnic, and national identity blending and working together as equal

partners with a common goal: to live freely and prosper in a land still stands as the best possible hope for so many.

As we all strive to surmount the wearisome onus of turning back the economic downturn that has kept many down over the past few years, and at the same time celebrate all that is good and count our blessings each day, the great equalizer remains in effect. We recognize and embrace

the common humanity in all of us.

The tireless efforts of those like Dr. King helped to teach us the importance of knowing these things. As we acknowledge and celebrate the legacy of the man this week, let us take time to consider what has taken place in this country since he was taken from us. We are a better society now, and that should never be taken for granted.

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 2

we wish him the best. Happy birthday to **Donna Desrescente**. We wish her the very best. We wish all our Facebook friends, such as **Rose Amabile, Chris Walsh, Livia E. Sharpe, Alberta Healey, Janice Burpee, Rick Jackson, Suzanne Ryan Marks, Paul Nunziato and James Ribeiro** a very happy birthday. We hope everyone has a great day. To all the others we may have missed, we sincerely wish them the very best of birthdays.

On **Monday, January 15**, all city offices are closed to observe **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**. Trash and recycling pickup will be delayed by one day. The **Council**

on **Aging** will also be closed **Monday, January 15**, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

The **Somerville Council on Aging** presents **Essentials of Caregiving Presentation, Friday, January 12**, at the **Holland Street Center**. There are many challenges to caregiving and care receiving. This session provides a practical guide focused on how to put together a team and establish a care plan. You will gain insight on how to navigate the challenges as you and your loved ones begin the journey of caregiving or care receiving. It also provides tips and resources available such as the **AARP**

Caregiving Resource Center and Family Caregiving Guide. RSVP by contacting **Molly Pagliuca** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or magliuca@somervillema.gov.

Join the **City of Somerville** in commemorating the spirit of hope, unity, and resilience that has defined Haiti's journey over the past decade. "**Resilience Rising**" is not just an event, it's a testament to the indomitable spirit of a people determined to overcome adversity and build a better tomorrow. There will be a brief presentation on Haiti's history, musical selection, guest speakers, dance and more. **Friday, January 12, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**, 15 Properzi

Way, Somerville.

Registration for **Winter Swim Lessons** will begin on **January 8** at 10:00 a.m. for Somerville residents and on **January 15** at 10:00 a.m. for non-Somerville residents. For more information contact the **Assistant Pool Manager: agalanek@somervillema.gov**.

"What do you want to see in Somerville's community live arts center?" The **Somerville Armory** currently has six tenants and several other spaces that could become arts spaces. Already the building is home to music building *Continued on page 23*

FUN & GAMES

Ms. Cam's

Olio

Olio - (noun) A miscellaneous mixture, hodgepodge

#905

1. In October 1964, what major award did Martin Luther King Jr. win?
2. here did Martin Luther King Jr. receive his doctorate (PhD) in Systematic Theology?
3. How many children did MLK Jr. have?
4. At what age did Martin Luther King Jr. enter college?
5. What was the Montgomery Bus Boycott?
6. Where was Martin Luther King Jr. fatally shot?
7. In what year did the Golden Globes have a three-way tie for best actress
8. Who is the youngest Golden Globes Winner?
9. In 1999, what Golden Globe recipient mooned the audience?
10. When is International Thank You Day?
11. When is National Vision Board Day?
12. When is Book Publishers Day?

Answers on page 14

The Somerville Times Useless Facts of the Week

1. Women hiccup less than men.
2. A cat's jaw cannot move sideways.

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD GEOGRAPHY 101

ACROSS

1. Village People's " ____ Man"
6. Certain tray content
9. Little bit, in Mexico
13. Ammo in a quiver, sing.
14. Geological Society of America
15. Young eel
16. Song of praise
17. Snowy ____ or great horned ____
18. Must-haves
19. Strait between Russia and Alaska
21. Smallest of the Great Lakes
23. Crime scene evidence
24. Peter the Great, e.g.
25. Consumer-protecting org.
28. Skiing helmet manufacturer
30. Mother-of-pearl, pl.
35. Type of sail, pl.
37. #29 Down anagram
39. Like Raphael's cherubs
40. Face shape
41. Tie with a morning coat
43. Dwarf buffalo
44. Short version
46. "At ____ , soldier"
47. Supposed giant Himalayan
48. Drool
50. Swimming hole
52. D.C. V.I.P.
53. Jim Acosta's announcement
55. Baltic ____
57. Of latitude
61. Bay east of India
64. Cuban dance
65. John Keats' "To Autumn," e.g.
67. Fortune teller's card
69. Jeered
70. China's drinkable export
71. Bird-related
72. Dick and Jane's dog
73. "Slippery" tree
74. Lean, past tense

DOWN

1. Atlas page
2. Speedy steed
3. First Nation nation
4. Squirrel away
5. Possessing
6. Full of excitement
7. Opposite of NNE
8. Sainly rings
9. Guilty, e.g.
10. Last word on walkie-talkie
11. Ghana money
12. Guesstimate phrase (2 words)
15. Catch in a snare
20. Nigerian money
22. A Bobbsey twin
24. Steel on boots, pl.
25. Inlet in Norway
26. Abalone seeker
27. Olden day calculators
29. Compass ____
31. TV personality Aiken
32. Ancient Scandinavian characters
33. What actors do
34. Iberian Peninsula country
36. Serb or Croat
38. Comme ci, comme Áa
42. Past or present
45. Group of five
49. Actor DiCaprio
51. Like floss
54. "That's all she ____"
56. Tequila source
57. Work units
58. Wisecrack
59. Rounded protuberance
60. Aid in crime
61. Show pleasure
62. Cantatrice's offering
63. Student aid
66. Tierra ____ Fuego
68. Big bang maker, acr.

Solution in the next edition of The Somerville Times.

CROSSWORD														
1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
13						14				15				
16						17				18				
	19					20			21	22				
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48					49		50			51		52		
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57	58	59	60					61				62	63	
64						65	66			67				68
69						70				71				
72						73				74				



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Soultion to last week's crossword puzzle:

S	O	U	P	S		A	F	C			E	S	P	Y				
O	P	T	I	C		S	E	A			C	A	N	O	E			
S	T	A	L	E		H	E	R			O	R	A	L	S			
		S	H	A	N	T	Y			P	L	U	N	G	E			
			F	I	R			B	I	A	S							
C	P	A			C	O	C	A			H	I	C	C	U	P		
O	R	B	S			T	O	R	N			N	O	R	M	A		
C	O	A	T			H	A	R	E	M			W	E	I	R		
O	F	F	A	L			L	A	V	A			L	E	A	K		
A	S	T	R	A	L			G	E	N	T			D	K	A		
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					G	L	O	V	E	S			T	R	O	I	K	A
A	L	I	B	I			A	T	E			R	A	I	L	S		
K	O	R	E	A			L	E	A			N	O	R	S	E		
A	W	A	Y				M	A	R			Y	U	K	O	N		

OBITUARY

Louise Sabella



Louise Sabella, a lifelong Somerville resident, Louise (Weezy or Lou Lou Bell) died at Mass General Hospital on January 4 after suffering a stroke on New Year's Day.

She is predeceased by siblings Yolanda Fontes, Gaetano Sabella, Angelina Gill, and Rose Agostino. She is survived by numerous nieces, nephews, great

nieces, great nephews, great great nephews, and a great great niece, all of whom she treated specially, and all considered her their most favorite and fun auntie.

When she was able, Louise was active in the Council on Aging Senior Centers. She loved Bingo, Casinos, Scratch tickets, music, baseball games, the mayor's picnic, and loved meeting kids who entertained at the Center. A devout Catholic, Auntie prayed for us all and supported many Catholic institutions.

She retired after working at Raytheon for over 40 years.

The last years of her life were spent at the Cobble Hill Apartments where she had many friends. She spent the last several months at the VNA REST

HOME on Highland Avenue and was thrilled with the social life and caring staff at that facility.

We will miss our gregarious, generous, fun loving, big hearted, exuberant, caring, and overall phenomenal auntie forever.

At Louise's request, services will be held privately.

Continuing with Louise's kind, generous and caring nature, please consider making a donation in her memory to Rosie's Place, 899 Harrison Ave, Boston, MA 02118 or online at www.rosiesplace.org.

Arrangements by the Cota Funeral Home, 335 Park Street, North Reading.

For information and to leave an online condolence, please visit <http://www.cotafuneral-homes.com>.

Union Square's first large-scale pop-up community center opens CONT. FROM PG 5

CultureHouse. "But this project is extra special for us because we hosted our first pop-up in Bow Market, just a few blocks away from this one! Union Square has been home to CultureHouse's main office for over three years, because of which we have built long-term relationships with the community and understand firsthand the critical need for this space. We're thrilled to work with the community in creating this space and help ensure the community continues to build social connections and have a voice in shaping the future of a Union Square that maximizes the benefits of new development and minimizes displacement."

CultureHouse Union Square will run from January 10 through June 9, Wednesdays through Sundays from 1:00 to 8:00 pm. CultureHouse and USNC will host an opening celebration on Friday, January 12, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the space (64 Union Square, Somerville, MA 02143). For general information, including operating hours and up-



coming programming, and to sign up for updates, please visit www.culturehouse.cc/projects/union-square/

About CultureHouse

CultureHouse is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving livability in local communities by transforming unused spaces into vibrant social infrastructure. They create lasting change through community engagement, building designs, operating experimental pop-up spaces, and impact reports detailing the project's next steps. Learn more at www.culturehouse.cc/union

About Union Square Neighborhood Council

The Union Square Neighborhood Council was formed with the mission to shape the future of Union Square as an increasingly inclusive and vibrant neighborhood and commercial center built around the aspirations of the people who live and work there. They value interdependence, inclusion, wellness, participation, equity, enjoyment, stewardship, transparency, and civic engagement. Learn more at <https://unionsquareneighborhoodcouncil.org/>

The Somerville Times Historical Fact of the Week



Eagle feathers #295

This article first appeared in the January 9, 2013, edition of The Somerville Times.

Three's company

By Bob (Monty) Doherty

During the 1800's, Somerville was a preferred location for new homes and attracted various business-minded people because of its proximity to Boston. Many of these professionals wanted their businesses to have a Boston address, but still desired to live in a suburb just outside of the city. It became one of Boston's most coveted bedroom communities. While this prompted many companies to set up shop near and around the Somerville border, three in particular come to mind as being true industry giants.



Had a glass of milk recently? If you have, there's a good chance that it was produced by the H.P. Hood & Sons Corporation. The company was founded in 1846 by Harvey Perley Hood. Over the last 168 years, it's grown into a \$2 billion business, making it the fourth largest dairy business in the country. The Hood plant, early on, straddled the Somerville line, with multiple dairy buildings scattered throughout the city. Harvey's family lived in various parts of Somerville and, as the company progressed,



their residences included estates on Perkins Street, Walnut Street (on the Prospect Hill side), Benton Road and Westwood Road. H.P. Hood himself was one of the founders of the beautifully architected Congregational Church at the corner of Walnut Street and Bow, in Union Square. The exterior of the church remains relatively unaltered to this day. Members of the Hood family were represented in various areas of the city, including the Somerville School Committee and the Somerville Hospital Board of Trustees. The family business continues to thrive today and reminders of this can be seen not only on the shelf of your local supermarket, but in more prominent places such as the giant Hood bottle in front of the Boston Children's

Continued on page 13

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notices can also be viewed on our website at www.thesomervilletimes.com



**City of Somerville
PLANNING BOARD**

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The **Somerville Planning Board (PB)** will hold a virtual public hearing on **Thursday, January 18, 2024**, at 6:00pm through Zoom.

Pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting of the Planning Board will be conducted via remote participation. An audio recording of these proceedings will be available by using the registration link once the meeting has concluded.

TO USE A COMPUTER

Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d7JJTsnSTW8k16-NE8LLw
Webinar ID: 861 4272 6802

TO CALL IN

An attendee must register for the meeting online in order for a call-in number to be emailed to them by Zoom.

The Planning Board will consider the following pursuant to M.G.L. 40A and the Somerville Zoning Ordinance:

620 Broadway 620 Broadway, LLC proposes to establish a Cannabis Retail Sales use in the Commercial Core 5 (CC-5) district, which requires a Special Permit.

Development review application submittal materials and other documentation may be viewed online at

<https://www.somervillema.gov/departments/ospcd/planning-and-zoning/reports-and-decisions>.

Interested persons may provide comments to the Planning Board at the hearing or by submitting written comments by mail to Planning & Zoning Division, 3rd Floor City Hall, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville, MA 02143; or by email to planning@somervillema.gov.

1/3/24, 1/10/24 The Somerville Times

**BLESSING OF THE BAY LINEAR PARK IMPROVEMENT
REQUEST FOR CONSULTANTS PROPOSALS**

The Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA), with consultation from the City of Somerville is seeking proposals from qualified landscape architecture and engineering firms for the completion of a design that will provide linear park and shoreline improvements for Blessing of the Bay Park in Somerville.

Blessing of the Bay Park is an important open space in Somerville and part of the Mystic River Reservation— a 10 mile, 370-acre linear park system. Community feedback has revealed that this park is underutilized due to limited views and access to the river's edge, deteriorating infrastructure and a lack of amenities. The City and MyRWA have been engaging residents and making improvements to the park since 2018—and we are excited for this next phase of work—which will focus on the path, access to the water and invasive species removal.

The scope of work for the consultant consists of five Phases: Site Analysis & Schematic Design, Design Development & Construction Documents, Vegetative Management, Construction Bid Support and Negotiation, and Construction Administration. The budget for this scope of work, including all costs and contingencies, is approximately \$350,000. The resulting linear park and shoreline improvements, all of which will be fully ADA-Accessible, will support open space and outdoor recreation priorities set out in the City's FY2023 Community Preservation Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan, Urban Forest Management Plan, SomerVision 2040 Comprehensive Plan and Climate Forward Plan.

The RFP for proposal plus more information on the park can be found at <https://mysticriver.org/blessingofthebay>.

Electronic Proposals are invited for submission to the MyRWA by **5 PM EST on Wednesday, January 24, 2024**.

1/3/24, 1/10/24 The Somerville Times

ANNUAL MEETING LEGAL NOTICE

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS OF MIDDLESEX FEDERAL M.H.C. The Annual Meeting of Middlesex Federal M.H.C will be held on **Wednesday, January 17, 2024** at 3:30 PM at its home office; One College Avenue, Somerville, Massachusetts, for the purpose of electing Directors and for the transaction of any other business that may legally come before the meeting. Daniel F. Wiseman, Secretary.

1/3/24, 1/10/24 The Somerville Times



LEGAL NOTICE

City of Somerville
Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development
(OSP/CD)
WFD-24.4

The City of Somerville, Mayor's Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development (OSP/CD) invites sealed proposals for the **USQ Community Benefits Fund Projects Workforce Development Grant Program**.

Workforce Development Grant Programs. Proposals must be for programs that assist with Career Navigation Services in the Union Square neighborhood.

Funds for the Industry Specific Training Programs and Community Benefits Agreement Programs Grants are provided by the Job Creation and Retention Trust, City funds, and/or other available funds generated from development impact fees.
Bid Number WFD24.4

Request for Proposal packages for both programs will be posted and available for download on the City of Somerville website beginning at 10:00AM, Wednesday January 10, 2024

www.somervillema.gov/wfd.

Print copies available upon request to Jennifer Mancina at email WFD@somervillema.gov.

An electronic PDF file should be emailed to email address and proposal packages must be submitted no later than **4:30 PM, Wednesday January 24, 2024** for responses to WFD-24.4 to the above email address.

Please contact the City of Somerville's Workforce Development staff, by email at WFD@somervillema.gov, for information and proposal packages.

Thomas F. Galligani Jr, Executive Director
617- 625-6600, x 2500

1/10/24 The Somerville Times

Notice is hereby given that:

The Annual Meeting of the Somerville YMCA will be held in the Association Building, 101 Highland Avenue, Somerville on **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**.

Article 2 Section III

At a regular meeting of the Board of Directors, or at least thirty (30) days preceding the Annual election, the President shall appoint a Nominating Committee of three voting members to nominate members for election to the Board of Directors. At least twenty-one (21) days before the annual meeting, the Nominating Committee shall publish in The Somerville Times notice of the Annual Meeting, together with this section of the By-Laws. Twenty-five (25) voting members of the Association may present in writing to the Nominating Committee, not later than ten (10) days before the Annual Meeting, the name of any voting member for election. Such names shall then be posted immediately in a conspicuous place in the Association Building. No person shall be eligible for nomination for election as Director unless her or his name shall thus have been submitted to or nominated by said Nominating Committee.

1/10/24 The Somerville Times



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE
PROCUREMENT & CONTRACTING SERVICES DEPARTMENT
INVITATION FOR BIDS
IFB#24-33**

The City of Somerville, through the Procurement & Contract Services Department invites bids for:

Various Trips for Older Adults

The RFP package may be obtained online at <https://www.somervillema.gov/procurement> or from the City of Somerville's BidExpress page at

<http://www.somervillema.gov/BidExpress> on or after: **Wednesday, January 10th, 2024**. Sealed bids will be received at the PCS Department, Somerville City Hall, 93 Highland Ave., Somerville, MA, 02143 or via Bid Express until: **3:00 PM, Wednesday, January 24th, 2024**.

The City of Somerville reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any minor informality in the RFP process, and accept the proposal(s) deemed to be in the best interests of the City of Somerville.

Please email tchukhatsang@somervillema.gov for more information.

Thupten Chukhatsang
Senior Procurement Manager
617-625-6600 x3400

1/10/24 The Somerville Times



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS
OF
WINTER HILL BANK, FSB**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Members of the Winter Hill Bank, FSB will be held at its office located at 337 Broadway, Somerville, Massachusetts, on the 17th day of January, 2024 at the hour of 2:00 P.M. of said day. The business to be taken up at said Annual Meeting shall be;

- (1) Considering and voting upon approval of the minutes of the last members' meeting;
- (2) Considering and voting upon reports of Officers and Committees of the Bank;
- (3) Considering and acting upon ratifications of the acts of the Directors and Officers of the Bank;
- (4) Election of Directors to fill the offices of the terms of which are then expiring; and
- (5) New business.

Dated this 2nd day of January, 2024 at Somerville, Massachusetts.

Per Order of the Board of Directors

Marie A. Danielli
Corporate Secretary

1/3/24, 1/10/24 The Somerville Times

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www.TheSomervilleTimes.com

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PHONE: 857-488-5138**

LEGAL NOTICES

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Section 00 11 13
ADVERTISEMENT TO BID
MGL c.149 Over \$150K

The **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**, the Awarding Authority, invites sealed bids from Contractors for the Building Envelope Concrete Repairs Phase 2 at State Aided Development: Mystic River (200-2) in Somerville, Massachusetts, in accordance with the documents prepared by **NPS ARCHITECTS**.

The Project consists of but not limited to:
Continuation of phased repair of the precast concrete modular additions. This includes replacement of sealant and backer rod around entire perimeter of all window frames and precast unit seams, repair to cracked/spalling concrete exteriors, and application of concrete coating.

The work is estimated to cost **\$227,040.00**.

All bidding Requests for Information (RFIs) shall be submitted online by 01/25/2024 at 10:00AM EST for filed sub-bids and by 02/08/2024 at 10:00AM EST for general bids.

Bids are subject to M.G.L. c.149 §44A-J & to minimum wage rates as required by M.G.L. c.149 §526 to 27H inclusive.

THIS PROJECT IS BEING ELECTRONICALLY BID AND HARD COPY BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. Please review the instructions in the bid documents on how to register as an electronic bidder. All Bids shall be submitted online at biddocs.com and received no later than the date and time specified.

General bidders must be certified by the Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) in the following category of work, **General Building Construction**, and must submit a current DCAMM Certificate of Eligibility and signed DCAMM Prime/General Contractor Update Statement.

General Bids will be received until **15 February 2024 on 10:00AM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed Sub-bids for the trades listed below will be received until **01 February 2024 on 10:00AM EST** and publicly opened online, forthwith.

Filed sub-bidders must be DCAMM certified for the trades listed below and bidders must include a current DCAMM Sub-Bidder Certificate of Eligibility and a signed DCAMM Sub-Bidder's Update Statement.

TRADES
Painting

General bids and sub-bids shall be accompanied by a bid deposit that is not less than five (5%) of the greatest possible bid amount (including all alternates) and made payable to the **SOMERVILLE HOUSING AUTHORITY**. Note: A bid deposit is not required for Projects advertised under \$50,000.

Bid Forms and Contract Documents will be available for review at biddocs.com (may be viewed and downloaded electronically at no cost).

General bidders must agree to contract with minority and women business enterprises as certified by the Supplier Diversity Office (SDO), formerly known as SOMWBA. The combined participation benchmark reserved for such enterprises shall not be less than 13% of the final contract price including accepted alternates. **Request for waivers must be sent to EOHLC** (david.mcclave@mass.gov) **5 calendar days prior to the General Bid date. NO WAIVERS WILL BE GRANTED AFTER THE GENERAL BIDS ARE OPENED.**

PRE-BID CONFERENCE / SITE VISIT: Scheduled
Date and Time: 01/18/2024 at 10:00AM EST
Address: 30 Memorial Rd, Somerville, MA 02145
Instructions: Meet at green awning that says Modernization

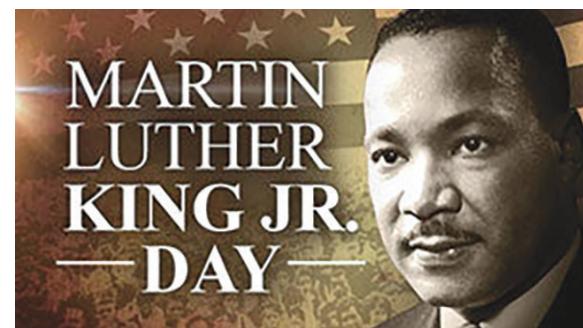
The hard copy Contract Documents may be seen at:

Nashoba Blue Inc. 433 Main Street Hudson, MA 01749 978-568-1167	Somerville Housing Authority 30 Memorial Road Somerville, MA 02145
--	--

1/10/24 The Somerville Times

Somerville announces two Martin Luther King Day observances

Mayor Katjana Ballantyne, and Somerville's Department of Racial and Social Justice (RSJ), are announcing two programs celebrating the life and legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in observance of Martin Luther King Day. To provide an opportunity for youth to intensively engage in the work of the civil rights leader, a youth writing and dialog series will launch in advance of the holiday. To allow all to model the good works of Dr. King, a drive for donations of winter items needed for unhoused residents will launch the week of the holiday.



Youth Creative Writing and Dialogue Workshop Series

In January, RSJ, in partnership with Books of Hope, will begin a series of youth creative writing workshops and dialogue sessions to discuss the works and solidarity of Martin Luther King. Youth will discuss various works of Dr. King and explore the intersections of his legacy and life in the 21st century.

The first workshop, titled Remaining Awake Through Revolution, will be held on Wednesday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m. at The Dojo at Somernova (15 Properzi Way). Youth will be provided with writing materials and food at the event.

MLK Community Donation Drive

Throughout January 2024, Somerville residents of all ages are invited to share in the spirit of service by donating new or gently used winter goods to the MLK Community Donation Drive. Donated items will help support our unhoused neighbors and be delivered to community partners supporting unhoused and displaced residents. Residents can donate: New or gently used hats, gloves, neck warmers, blankets, sleeping bags, sweatshirts, or sweatpants.

New, unopened, unexpired hand warmers, NEW Wool or thermal socks, NEW Bras/sports bras, NEW Underwear (larger sizes), toothbrushes and toothpaste (travel size), shampoo and conditioner (travel size), deodorant sticks, feminine hygiene products, soap, baby wipes (normal size), microwavable noodles, soup/pasta cups, microwavable oatmeal, microwavable mac n' cheese, crackers/chips, meat sticks, or mini cereal boxes.

Labeled collection boxes are set up around the city. Donations can be made at:

- City Hall (93 Highland Avenue, Welcome Desk on the 1st floor and the Mayor's Office on the 2nd floor)
- Somerville Central Library (79 Highland Avenue)
- Somerville East Library (115 Broadway)
- Somerville West Branch Library (40 College Avenue)
- City Hall Annex (50 Evergreen Street)
- Dept. of Public Works (DPW) Building (One Franey Road)
- Council on Aging Offices (167 Holland Street)
- Somerville Police Headquarters Lobby (220 Washington Street)
- Somerville Fire Department Headquarters (266 Broadway)
- SFD Highland Ave. Station (265 Highland Avenue)
- SFD Union Square Station (255 Somerville Avenue)
- SFD Teele Square Station (6 Newbury Street on the corner of Holland Street)
- SFD Lowell Street Station (651 Somerville Avenue on the corner of Lowell Street)

Donations will be accepted through Wednesday, January 31.

For questions about the winter goods drive or the upcoming series of youth workshops centering the work of Dr. Martin Luther King, please contact rsj@somervillema.gov.

To advertise in
The Somerville Times
call

Bobbie Toner: 857-488-5138

COMMENTARY

The views and opinions expressed in the commentaries and letters to the Editor of The Somerville Times do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Somerville Times, its publishers or staff.

Keep 'no' on the table for Somernova



By Chris Dwan

I have written previously [1] about Rafi Properties' proposal to demolish the buildings at the old Ames Safety Envelope site between Park and Dane streets, the campus that they call "Somernova." [2] They want to replace the century-old one- and two-story fabrication buildings with sleek modern towers up to 16 stories tall and provide expansion space for their major tenants — mostly technology companies like Form Energy [3].

Rafi took the next step in this process at the final City Council meeting of 2023 by submitting a formal request — a petition to amend the zoning code [4]. This sort of petition is typically used by owners who want to shift their property between existing classifications. Rafi's proposal is wildly broader. The legal text runs to 33 pages, adds whole new categories of buildings, and even creates a

new overlay district coyly named "Climate and Equity Innovation."

Who doesn't like climate, equity, and innovation, right?

Somerville is under no obligation to adopt this proposed zoning text, either as-written or in any form at all. If we do choose to take it seriously, it needs significant changes. This first draft is literally what happens when a developer writes laws that they wish were on the books. In one particularly glaring example, Rafi is proposing giant neon signs on the rooftops.

Some notable names appear on the petition. Former Mayor Joe Curtatone and the current Chair of the School Committee signed, as did two senior figures in the Chamber of Commerce and two members of the Union Square Neighborhood Council (USNC) [5]. The neighborhood council signatures are problematic. USNC's mandate, born out of frustration with US2, is to negotiate community benefits agreements with developers. Signing on to a developer petition before those negotiations even start raises questions about potential conflicts of interest.

Wins and Losses

To be clear, this project is po-

v. Signage Standards.

a).

Development Parcels 1 (D-1), 2 (D-2), 3 (D-3), 4 (D-4) are permitted to have up to two (2) Roof or Skyline Signs.

- i) A Roof or Skyline Sign may be up to one thousand (1,000) sf in area.
- ii) Neon is permit if it is Dark Sky compliant.

The "Signage Standards" section of Rafi's proposal for Somernova.

tentially a big win for the city. Rafi wants to update and revitalize a collection of century old industrial buildings to make space for local companies like Form to remain here as they grow. They are also offering substantial incentives, including a community center, north-south shuttle busses to cover glaring gaps in MBTA routes, improvements to the sewers under Park and Dane Streets, and of course — cash.

On the down-side, the project is certain to impose a decade of disruption on a neighborhood already sore and tired from years of dirty work on Beacon Street and in Conway Park. Several neighbors have told me that they intend to move away if the project is approved. I am haunted by the memory of the Tyler Street resident who worried at a public meeting that her apartment windows would literally never see the sun once the towers went up.

This project is also certain to

accelerate displacement among our already stressed arts and creative economy. Rafi's overlay does away with the crown jewel of our Fabrication (FAB) zoning [6], which was enacted just four years ago to slow this exact kind of loss. One local music studio owner was stoic when he shared that he will obviously not be able to record so close to heavy construction. The Somerville Media Center (SMC) [7], recently relocated to Tyler Street, faces similar challenges.

Rafi has been generous with space for local organizations like SMC and the Somerville Bike Kitchen [8]. They have also offered a "right of first refusal" to beloved current tenants Aero-naut Brewing [9] and the Boulder-ing Project [10], who get first dibs on space in the new buildings. The challenge inherent in this is simple: You can't build old and cheap. New construction inevitably means that the rent will go up, forcing out people, groups, and companies who are already at their limit.

The unforced errors at Rafi's 599 Somerville Ave site (formerly the LaRonga Bakery [11]) are also worrisome. The crew removed four street trees last year and then tried to explain it away as the same mistake, four times in a row, all on the same day [12]. While Rafi did make changes to project management and offered compensation to the city (under substantial pressure from the neighborhood), it speaks to a concerning lack of oversight.

This is doubly problematic because from what I can tell, the Somernova project would be Ra-

fi's biggest undertaking ever by at least a factor of ten. I, personally, am not interested in seeing my neighborhood used as an opportunity for an inexperienced development team to "fail forward."

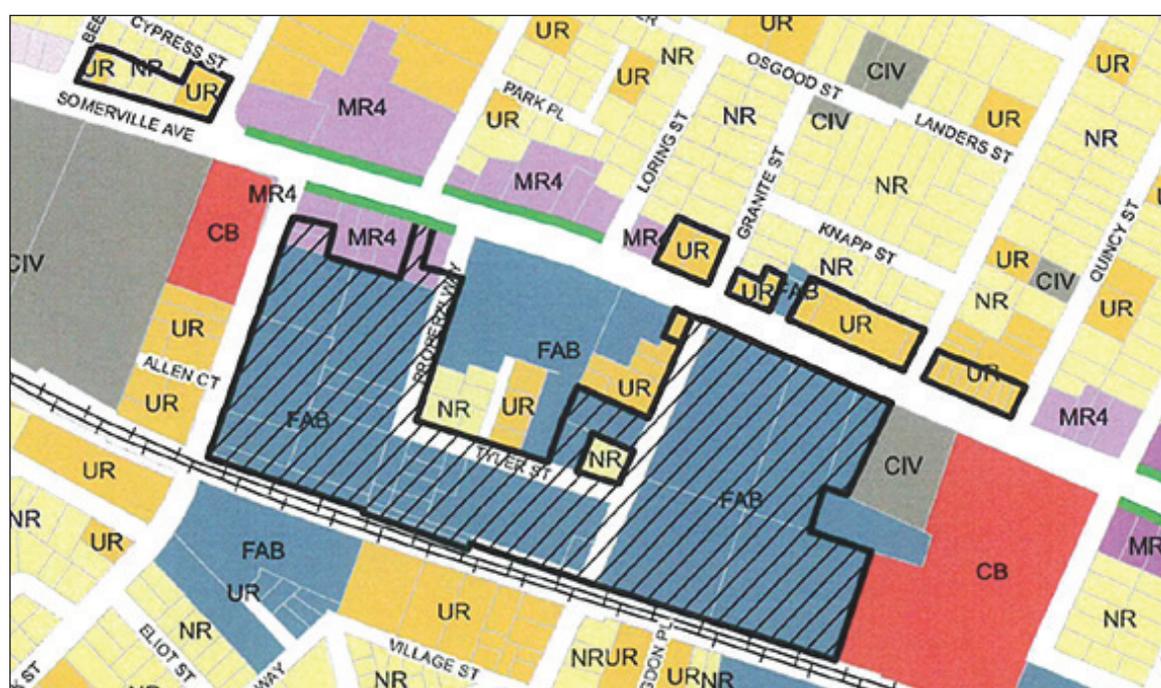
Who is Rafi?

According to the Middlesex Registrar of Deeds [13], the Somernova properties were purchased on April 11, 2018 by "Rafi Investments – Somerville" [14] in a five-part transaction for a total of \$88M. At the time, it was a cash purchase with no lien or mortgage recorded. Rafi added a mortgage for \$29.3M (almost exactly 33% of the original price) a few months later.

According to the Secretary of State [15], Rafi Investments was incorporated in Delaware in March, 2018 (just prior to the sale) and later registered in Massachusetts as a "foreign" (out of state) company. The founding documents do not list the names of any officers or managers, referring only to another company, named "Rafi Properties," [16] which was registered in 2011.

Rafi Properties names only one responsible individual: Collin Yip.

Mr. Yip is one of only two people named on the Rafi Properties website [17]. The other shares his last name and is said to be responsible for "Asia operations." Mr Yip shows up in similar solitude on nearly a dozen other companies registered since 2011, including "599 Somerville Ventures," and "The Dojo- Community LLC." He is also listed as a board member of the Northeast Clean Energy Council [18], where former Mayor



The proposed extent of the new zoning overlay.

Continued on page 13

Historical Fact CONT. FROM PG 9

Museum and in the sky in the form of the Hood Blimp.

In 1846, Rufus Stickney took over his father's Boston-based spice business, becoming the sole proprietor of what was to become the Stickney & Poor spice company. He owned an estate, as well as other vast real estate holdings on Winter Hill, just off Broadway. Stickney Avenue, between School and Marshall, is named after him. The company was located in Sullivan Square on the corner of Cambridge & Spice Street, directly opposite of what is now the MBTA station. In 1893, he bequeathed \$5,000 to

help launch Somerville Hospital. This was, at the time, 20% of the cost of the total hospital. Stickney & Poor is the oldest spice milling company in the United States and today the name Stickney & Poor remains alive on billions of condiments and spice packets. In 2015, it celebrates its 200th birthday.

Also in Sullivan Square, in the year 1861, William F. Schrafft started his famous candy company. This was the onset of the Civil War and a large item of his business was the sale of jellybeans to families, which they would send to their Union sol-

diers. The company grew tremendously and, at one time, Schrafft's restaurants could be found in Boston, New York city, Philadelphia and beyond. Amazingly, during the Great Depression, Schrafft's sustained no layoffs, because no matter how bleak things got, money for chocolates was somehow always managed to be found. If you have ever been to what is now the popular bar called The Independent, in Union Square, you might notice how beautifully ornate the interior décor and woodwork of the bar is. This is because it used to serve as the Schrafft's official



boardroom. William Schrafft died in Somerville in 1906.

Many Somerville citizens found their occupations at these

businesses and the three iconic Somerville-linked companies continue to live on in New England history.

Keep 'no' on the table for Somernova CONT. FROM PG 12

Curtatone recently took on the role of CEO.

Mr. Yip has, for the last couple of years, sponsored programs for local youth at a teen center that he calls The Dojo [19]. This is laudable, but it absolutely does not obligate the city to amend our zoning. The proposal leans heavily on Rafi's reputation and engagement with the community. It goes on at length about "co-creation" and the thousands of conversations that supposedly led to the need to build these towers, but remains mute on other important questions.

Where does the money come from, both the original \$88M and the further billions expected in construction costs? Who expects to profit from that investment and on what timescale? How are decisions made, and how are decision makers held accountable? Perhaps most importantly, assuming we buy into the "trust me, I'm a good guy" argument: What is the succession plan for the company, and thus the development, when Mr. Yip's attention is inevitably drawn elsewhere?

There It Is

As the community has, to put it gently, failed to unify in support of the project, the tone has turned threatening. The development team have repeatedly said that they very much want to build something wonderful, but failing that they intend to do

what they can "by right" under the current zoning. It's reminiscent of the, "look what you made me do" theme found all-too-often in abusive relationships.

In addition to the sketches of hulking industrial barns built to the lot lines, we have been told in no uncertain terms that failing to authorize the desired zoning will make it impossible for Rafi to provide most, or indeed any of the amenities and considerations that make the deal palatable — including the "Dojo 3.0," a term used somewhat interchangeably with the community center.

Wealthy out-of-town interests who curry favor through their generosity towards local underprivileged youth, then threaten to withdraw that largess ("don't make me hurt the kids!") in order to close a real estate deal are the stuff of storybook villains. Using The Dojo as a bargaining chip in this process is beyond distasteful, and casts a shadow over the entire proposal.

What's the Rush?

Finally: We just had this conversation. The City Council passed a comprehensive zoning overhaul just four years ago in late 2019. That update was the result of five years of work, including countless meetings, hearings, amendments, and debate.

Rafi purchased the Somernova campus with two years to spare in the zoning rewrite. They could

have engaged at that time, but chose not to.

Rafi paid \$88M in cash for a collection of hundred-year-old buildings, knowing full-well that neither the old nor the proposed new zoning supported anything like their ambitions. Somerville was absolutely planning dense, tall, industrial development at that time — but we planned to put it elsewhere, in our "transformational" districts — closer to mass transit and the highways and for the most part not directly adjacent to residential neighborhoods.

One of the frustrating truths about civic engagement and activism is that there is more important, urgent work than can ever be accomplished or even meaningfully talked about. Even with meetings that stretch to heroic hours of the night — all sorts of deserving topics still inevitably fall off the table. I urge the Council, the Mayor, and the community to not let moneyed interests set the tempo of the city's discussions or distract us from our many ongoing crises.

To be clear: This proposal deserves fair consideration. It's still very much in play for me and it could turn out to be great. We should not let it dominate our civic conversation to the exclusion of all else this year. If we do choose to alter our zoning this significantly, let's do so thoughtfully and in the interests of the

city as a whole — not as a hand-out to a particular developer who seems in a rush to retain a particular tenant.

If it turns out that this is a bad deal, or if it continues to feel like a deliberately untenable starting

point calculated to move expectations, then the only sensible thing to do is to walk away [20] and force them to come back with a real offer.

Seriously, the neon signs are a non-starter.

Links:

- [1] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-647784739f4c>
- [2] <https://somernova.com/>
- [3] <https://formenergy.com/>
- [4] <https://somervillema.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6450392&GUID=3127C43F-1DDC-482E-80B6-D35BDDC28819&Options=&Search=>
- [5] <https://sites.google.com/view/usnc>
- [6] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somernova-and-fabrication-districts-1dccc94f1d7c>
- [7] <https://www.somervillemedia.org/>
- [8] <https://somervillebikekitchen.org/>
- [9] <https://www.aeronautbrewing.com/>
- [10] <https://boulderingproject.com/location/somerville/>
- [11] <https://www.thesomervilletimes.com/archives/96999>
- [12] <https://599.community/project-updates/bgif5o0vcqlqn-0jtmjrqo30ioi8t0>
- [13] <https://www.masslandrecords.com/MiddlesexSouth/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>
- [14] <https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/CorpSearch/CorpSummary.aspx?sysvalue=9AirO3O3LQtUWojctrAQ0K3P926TGmApjRsc.k5hmEk->
- [15] <https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/corpweb/CorpSearch/CorpSearch.aspx>
- [16] <https://corp.sec.state.ma.us/CorpWeb/CorpSearch/CorpSummary.aspx?sysvalue=5T83YavVUoHnvgYH-8dLEsEsrnXluKUfwwxLb7QQk6S4->
- [17] <https://rafiproperties.com/>
- [18] <https://www.necce.org/>
- [19] <https://somernova.com/dojo/>
- [20] <https://medium.com/@fdmts/somervilles-budget-problem-74806b5bbb8f>

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Ms. Cam's

From page 8

Olio

Answers

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Nobel Peace Prize | 4, 1968 |
| 2. Boston University | 7. 1989, between Jodie Foster, Shirley MacLaine and Sigourney Weaver |
| 3. Four | |
| 4. 15, Morehouse College | 8. Ricky Schroeder (Age of win: 9) |
| 5. A protest campaign against the policy of racial segregation on the public transit system of Montgomery, AL | 9. Jack Nicholson |
| | 10. January 11 |
| | 11. January 13 |
| 6. Lorraine Motel in Memphis, TN, on April | 12. January 16 |

The Somerville Museum Presents: Museo Inmigrante

Please join in as the Somerville Museum presents a Community Collaboration Project with Somerville's Padres Latinos. Padres Latinos is a mutual aid group of more than 230 Spanish and Portuguese-speaking parents with children in the Somerville Public Schools (SPS).

The group formed during the COVID-19 pandemic to advocate for SPS Latino students and reduce or eliminate the achievement gap between Latino students and their peers. The group also strengthens its community by sharing information about food, education, cultural opportunities, and housing resources.

For this exhibit, Padres Latinos partnered with award-winning photographers Mario Quiroz and Iaritz Menjivar to explore stories from its members about immigration, home, family, memory, community, and finding purpose. Padres Latinos invites all Somerville residents and visitors across the region to the exhibition.

Many thanks to Mass Humanities, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and The Leonian Foundation for their support. For more information about Padres Latinos, please visit www.padreslatinossps.org.



— Photo by Mario Quiroz

The Somerville Museum, One Westwood Road, Somerville, MA 02143 | 617-666-9810 | info@somervillemuseum.org | www.somervillemuseum.org.

Related programming:

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 11, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Join in to celebrate the opening of the next Community Collaboration project. Admission: \$0; Admission is being generously sponsored by New England Biolabs on behalf of Padres Latinos. Tickets can be purchased at the Museum or online at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/museo-inmigrante-opening-reception-tickets-789407407807?aff=oddtcreator>

Curator Tour (English): Saturday, January 20, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Join in for a tour with the Curators in English as they discuss their process and vision for the exhibition. Admission: \$10.

Curator Tour (Spanish + Portuguese): Saturday, January 20, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Join in for a tour with the Curators in Spanish and Portuguese. Admission: \$10.

What Being an Immigrant Means to Me (talk): Friday, January 26, 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Admission: \$10.

Pintar Maletas Workshop with Laidy Saenz: Saturday, February 24, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Admission: \$10.

Mental Health in the Latino Community: Wednesday, March 6, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Admission: \$10.

Closing Reception: Saturday, March 23, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Admission: \$5.

Admission fees help the museum cover expenses related to programming, staffing, and overhead.

Community Partners: The Somerville Museum along with Curators, Ivan Abarca-Torres, Marta Fuertes, and Sonia Conde are pleased to be working with photographers, Mario Quiroz, Iaritz Menjivar and collaborators, Charan Devereaux, Kristen Gresh, Nick Pioggia, and Somerville Museum staff, Alison Drasner and Laidy Saenz. Participating vendors include Cambridge Reprographics, J-Hung Graphics, and Flagraphics. A special thank you to all the participating families and members of Padres Latinos.

About the Somerville Museum: Located in the heart of the city at the intersection of Central Street and Westwood Road, the Somerville Museum has served as the community's premier cultural institution for nearly a century. While specializing in the visual arts — including many exhibits with both historical and local significance — the Museum also offers various musical and lecture series, a number carried out in collaboration with Somerville's public schools. An important meeting place for local historical and cultural organizations, the Museum has a long tradition of encouraging hands-on learning projects for young and old alike. As the only membership supported, non-profit, mostly volunteer-run, community-based cultural institution of its kind in Somerville, members and volunteers are always welcome. For more information visit <http://somervillemuseum.org/>

Special Thanks

Funded [in part] by an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the City of Somerville.

This program is made possible [in part] by a grant from Mass Humanities.

This program is made possible [in part] by a grant from the Phillip and Edith Leonian Foundation.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/somerville.times.1

SENIOR CENTER HAPPENINGS:

Upcoming events:

The Inti Raymi Festival – A celebration of the Andean New Year. A Bilingual Storytelling Event – Thursday, January 18th at our Holland Street Center. Portuguese Lunch from J&J Restaurant and performance is brought to you at no cost by Somerville Cambridge Elder Services Multicultural Meal Program, a City of Somerville, ARPA funded program. Please reserve your spot for the event and lunch by calling Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321.

Essentials of Caregiving Presentation – Friday, January 12th at our Holland Street Center. There are many challenges to caregiving and care receiving. This session provides a practical guide focused on how to put together a team and establish a care plan. You will gain insight on how to navigate the challenges as you and your loved ones begin the journey of caregiving or care receiving. It also provides tips and resources available such as the AARP Caregiving Resource Center and Family Caregiving Guide. RSVP by contacting Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318 or magliuca@somervillema.gov

Movie Day - Wednesday, January 17th at 1:00 p.m. Holland Street Center – Book Club Starring: Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda and Mary Steenburgen. Rated PG-13 -Running Time 1 hour & 44minutes. Four lifelong friends' lives are turned upside down to hilarious ends when their book club tackles Fifty Shades of Grey. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov - \$2 per person for Pizza Lunch.

Movie Day - Wednesday, January 24th at 1:00pm Holland Street Center – Book Club, The Next Chapter. - Starring: Diane Keaton, Candice Bergen, Jane Fonda and Mary Steenburgen. Rated PG-13 - Running Time 1 hour & 48minutes. This highly anticipated sequel follows the four best friends as they take their book club to Italy! RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or dhiggins@somervillema.gov \$2 per person for Pizza Lunch.

Multicultural Meals Program – Congratulations to Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) who was the recent recipient of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding from the City of Somerville. SCES will use this funding to provide free, hot, lunches to Somerville's older adults at both the Holland Street Center and the Ralph and Jenny Senior Centers through June of 2024. Multicultural lunches will be catered by Somerville businesses and will be served at noon, following BINGO or Special Programming.

Tuesday, January 2nd - Holland Street Center - Portuguese - J&J Restaurant

Thursday, January 4th - Holland Street Center Chinese - Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Tuesday, January 9th - Holland Street Center Italian - Alfredo's Italian Kitchen

Thursday, January 11th - Holland Street Center Haitian - Highland Creole Cuisine

Tuesday, January 16th - Holland Street Center Chinese - Greater Boston Chinese Golden Age Center

Tuesday, January 23rd - Holland Street Center Haitian - Highland Creole Cuisine

Thursday, January 25th - Holland Street Center Italian - Alfredo's Italian Kitchen

All are welcome! Registration is required as space is limited. Please call Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321. Grab and Go lunches are still available.

Knitting with Natasha Group – Looking to start off the new year learning or improving your knitting skills? The Somerville Council on Aging is hosting a drop-in knitting group in January. To learn how to knit, or if you find yourself with any questions regarding your knitting project consider attending. Drop-in dates are January 9th, January 16th, January 23rd and January 30th from 2-3pm at 167 Holland St. If you have any questions, please contact Natasha Naim at 617-625-6600 ext. 2317.

Bingo – Tuesday at the Holland Street Center – Every Tuesday - starting at 10:00 a.m. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Bingo – Thursday at our Holland Street Center - starting at 10:00 a.m. Every Thursday except January 18th. Lunch is available following Bingo. RSVP to Debby Higgins by calling 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

Men's Group – Meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month (January 9th) starting at 10:30 a.m. at our Holland Street Center. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@Somervillema.gov.

Veteran's Group – Meets the 4th Tuesday of each month (January 23rd) at our Holland Street Center starting at 11:00 a.m. RSVP to Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600 ext. 2321 or email dhiggins@somervillema.gov

LGBTQIA+ & Allies Social – Thursday, January 11th at the Holland Street Center 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Light dinner will be served. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov.

Asian Tea – Monday, January 8th at 2:00 p.m. at the SOIA Conference Room, 42 Cross Street. This group is bilingual in Cantonese and English. RSVP to Maureen Bastardi at

617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen at mbastardi@somervillema.gov

Project Outlook, Low Vision Group - Meets the 4th Thursday of each month (January 25th) starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Holland Street Center. Special guest this month is Joel Light. Joel will sing a medley of popular songs. Project Outlook is a group of residents with low or no vision who enjoy getting together for camaraderie and socialization. Project Outlook has been active for over 30 years. Come join in the conversation, we look forward to meeting you. All are welcome. Pizza will be served. For more information, please contact Claudia Ferro at 857-237-1801 or Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600, ext. 2318.

Tech Time Drop In Hours - Tuesdays, January 2nd, 16th, 23rd & 30th at 10:00 a.m. at the Holland St. Center - RSVP to Molly Pagliuca at 617-625-6600 ext. 2318 or mpagliuca@somervillema.gov

Coffee & Conversation – Mondays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the Holland Street Center. January 8th, 22nd, & 29th - Join us as we discuss a range of topics. No books – no test – just friendly conversation and good coffee. Please contact Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@Somervillema.gov or 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 to RSVP.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive a virtual copy of our monthly newsletter, please contact Maureen Bastardi at 617-625-6600, ext. 2335 or email Maureen Bastardi at mbastardi@somervillema.gov. If you would like to become part of our Google Group, please contact Debby Higgins at 617-625-6600, ext. 2321 or email Debby at dhiggins@somervillema.gov

The Council on Aging's Senior Transportation Program

The COA is offering free taxi rides to Somerville residents over the age of 60. Rides are available to go to the grocery store, farmer's market, and pharmacy in Somerville and routine medical appointments in the surrounding communities. To best accommodate the needs of everyone in the city and to maximize the use of our funding, we will be capping the number of rides per week. To ensure the health and welfare of every resident of Somerville, exemptions will be made for chemotherapy and radiation appointments. To find out more information or to schedule your ride, please call Connie Lorenti at 617-625-6600 ext. 2319. All rides must be booked two business days in advance. This program is funded through ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funding.

\$300K+ in manufacturing innovation grants for Somerville firm

Gencores of Somerville will receive a \$319,002 grant to support the construction of a custom facility that will develop novel foam metamaterials for cost-and weight-sensitive industries, such as automotive and wind energy.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration announced two new grants from the state's Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) to AeroShield of Hyde Park and Gencores of Somerville.

These grants will invest in new R&D infrastructure to boost the manufacturing of advanced materials in the state. The state has invested over \$86 million in business expansion and R&D centers in Massachusetts through M2I2, helping to promote innovation and job growth statewide.

AeroShield will receive a \$610,000 grant to support the manufacturing of cutting-edge insulating transparent inserts for windows. Gencores will receive a \$319,002 grant to support the construction of a custom facility that will develop novel foam metamaterials for cost-and weight-sensitive industries, such as automotive and wind energy.

"We are thrilled to support businesses that drive innovation and job creation," said Economic Development Secretary Yvonne Hao. "The Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2) bridges the gap between

innovation and commercialization across all sectors. These grants will further support manufacturers in creating cutting-edge eco-conscious materials, propelling our state's economy forward."

"These M2I2 grants highlight the state's global leadership in advanced materials, with innovative companies located across the state," said Christine Nolan, Director of the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at MassTech (CAM), which manages the M2I2 program. "Both AeroShield and Gencores bring a strong network of organizations that have backed their proposals, developing a collaborative ecosystem to help support their growth over the coming years. Investing in this R&D infrastructure will not only help drive job growth in Greater Boston, but also support companies focused on the clean tech space."

The M2I2 program supports projects that align with one of 14 Manufacturing USA Institutes, a national network of facilities that help U.S. advanced manufacturers scale their operations. AeroShield's project is relevant to the work of The ARM Institute and RAPID Manufacturing Institute, while Gencores's project is relevant to the work of The Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) and RAPID Manufacturing Institute.

Gencores' new facility equipment will promote testing and qualification of their novel low-cost, ultra-light, and thermally resistant material for the composite industry. Gencores' material is of particular interest to the automotive and wind turbine blade manufacturing industries seeking to reduce the weight of their structures and improve the efficiency of their vehicles and systems.

"Achieving net-zero across hard-to-decarbonize industries hinges on material performance, affordability, availability, and recyclability," said Dr. Jules Theyry, Founder and CEO of Gencores. "The state's longstanding vision of advancing high-impact materials and manufacturing technologies aligns seamlessly with our goals; we could not be happier to partner with Christine Nolan, Farhad Vazegoo and the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's team under this Healey-Driscoll Administration award to expedite the qualification and deployment of Gencores' technology. We extend our gratitude to Instron Mechanical Testing Systems for their invaluable support in producing and delivering our custom equipment."

"To qualify its remarkable material for use in the automotive and wind turbine blade manufacturing sectors, as well as to facilitate the realization of the



performance and sustainability advantages offered by composite technology, Gencores needs specialized testing capacity and facility," said Chad Duty, CEO at IACMI. "IACMI, propelled by its organizational members, actively supports research and development initiatives focused on reducing technical uncertainties and building a robust supply chain for the rapidly growing advanced composites industry. We eagerly anticipate contributing to Gencores' mission."

M2I2-funded projects have impacted over 170 companies and leveraged over \$320 million from outside sources, helping boost the flow of investment in the state and creating over 1000 jobs in Massachusetts.

"The Green Jobs wave is happening right here in Somerville," said State Representative Mike Connolly. "Thank you to the Center for Manufacturing at the MassTech Collaborative for catalyzing the growth of this important sector of the manufacturing industry, putting real dollars into growing industries which will help us reach our emissions reduction goals. I'm pleased to have also worked this

year to secure additional funds for green jobs training in the FY24 budget so that Somerville residents of all backgrounds can take advantage of exciting opportunities just like this one from today's announcement."

About the Center for Advanced Manufacturing at MassTech

The mission of the is to foster the most complete, collaborative, and agile manufacturing ecosystem, to enable business growth from innovation through production. CAM is a division of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MassTech), a public economic development agency tasked with supporting business formation and growth in the Commonwealth's tech and innovation sectors. CAM provides a path for manufacturing growth through a connected, accessible ecosystem that supports innovation, workforce development and a business-friendly environment. CAM managed programs include the Massachusetts Manufacturing Innovation Initiative (M2I2), the MassBridge manufacturing training program, and the massmakes.org portal. Learn more at <https://cam.masstech.org/>.

Mayor Ballantyne reflects on first term in office

For the first time since 2020, the Somerville community gathered together in-person for the 2024 inauguration ceremonies. Mayor Katjana Ballantyne was sworn in for her second term in office along with newly-elected and returning members of the City Council and School Committee. The Mayor pledged a continued commitment to an inclusive, equitable city that values community voices.

"The stakes of what we do in local government have never been higher," said Mayor Ballantyne. "We are building a Somerville that focuses on your everyday needs while also thinking about the uncertainties of tomorrow. And, we remain steadfast." Watch the Mayor's full speech at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/SomervilleCityTV>.



Beacon Hill Roll Call CONT. FROM PG 6

to distribute fentanyl test strips to help prevent overdoses, but they discovered that state law stood in the way of them doing so. As the fentanyl crisis has worsened across the country, a majority of states have already moved to legalize these affordable, lifesaving test strips. It's time for the commonwealth to do the same. By passing this bill, we will empower police departments and community organizations to distribute fentanyl test strips and save lives."

"We know two things in Massachusetts as facts: opioids take far too many lives in our state and fentanyl test strips save them," said Senate President Karen Spilka (D-Ashland). "By voting to legalize fentanyl test strips, the Senate is taking a commonsense action step to save lives in our state – and we know it works."

"I am proud to report out this bill from the Judiciary Committee," said Sen. Jamie Eldridge (D-Acton), the Senate chair of the Judiciary Committee. "It represents a commonsense criminal justice reform that will better address substance use challenges."

(A "Yes" vote is for the bill.)

Sen. Patricia Jehlen Yes

ALSO UP ON BEACON HILL

ID FOR LIQUOR PURCHASES (H 4131) – The House approved and sent to the Senate a bill that would allow alcohol-serving establishments to accept all out-of-state motor vehicle licenses and Global Entry cards issued by the United States Customs and Border Protection office, as valid proof of age and identification.

"As a state that welcomes visitors from across the country to enjoy our museums, sporting events, tourism attractions and other venues, this is a vitally important economic measure that takes the burden off of our small businesses and allows out-of-state visitors to enjoy a drink if they choose," said House sponsor Rep. Paul McMurtry (D-Dedham). "This bill will go a long way in supporting the commonwealth's businesses as they continue to recover from the pandemic and compete with surrounding states."

"A constituent brought the issue to me where she couldn't purchase alcohol with a well vetted international identification document, and it seemed like an issue where we needed to update the law to make sure it doesn't stand in the way of everyday commerce," said Senate sponsor Sen. Pat Jehlen (D-Somerville).

POTENTIAL 2024 BALLOT QUESTIONS – Several campaigns to put proposed law on the November 5, 2024 ballot for voter consideration have cleared the next hurdle. Secretary of State Bill Galvin's office certified that the necessary 74,574 had been filed for several potential ballot questions.

Galvin has sent those questions to the Legislature which now has until May 1, 2024 to approve the proposed laws. If not approved by the Legislature, proponents must gather another 12,429 signatures and file them with local officials by June 19, 2024, and then the secretary of state's office by July 3, 2024, in order for the question to appear on the November 2024 ballot.

The proposed laws include ones that would permit the state auditor's office to audit the Legislature; increase over five years the minimum wage for tipped workers to the same as the general minimum wage; legalize some psychedelic substances including psilocybin and psilocyn found in mushrooms to treat mental health disorders including major depressive disorder and substance abuse; remove the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exam as a high school graduation requirement and instead require students to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in math, science and technology and English; and several proposals to change the rights and benefits for on-demand drivers like Uber and Lyft.

ORDER OF CANDIDATES' LISTING ON THE BALLOT OF THE MARCH 5 BAY STATE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY - Secretary of State Bill Galvin announced the results of a random drawing to determine the order on the ballot of the names of all of the qualified candidates in the March 5 Massachusetts Presidential primary. The results:

Democratic Party:

1. Dean Phillips
2. Joseph Biden
3. Marianne Williamson

Republican Party:

1. Chris Christie
2. Ryan Binkley
3. Vivek Ramaswamy
4. Asa Hutchinson
5. Donald Trump
6. Ron DeSantis
7. Nikki Haley

Libertarian Party

1. Jacob Hornberger
2. Michael Rectenwald
3. Chase Oliver
4. Michael Ter Maat
5. Lars Damian Mapstead

QUOTABLE QUOTES – *By the Numbers Edition*

MOVIN' IN AND OUT - United Van Lines 47th Annual National Movers Study of the 50 states and the District of Columbia found Americans "are moving east-bound and southbound – and relocating to less expensive areas with comparable amenities to larger metropolitans." The Top Ten "inbound" that attracted more residents in

2023 were Vermont, District of Columbia, South Carolina, Arkansas, Rhode Island, North Carolina, South Dakota, Alabama, New Mexico and West Virginia. Here is how the Bay State ranked:

7th — *Where Massachusetts ranked in the number of "outbound" states from which people moved from in 2023. The only states that lost more people than Massachusetts were New Jersey, Illinois, North Dakota, New York, Michigan and California.*

28.4 percent — *Percentage of Massachusetts residents who said they moved because of their job.*

19.2 percent — *Percentage of Massachusetts residents who said they moved for family consideration.*

18 percent — *Percentage of Massachusetts residents who said they moved because of their retirement.*

16 percent. — *Percentage of Massachusetts residents who said they moved because of lifestyle.*

HOW LONG WAS LAST WEEK'S SESSION?

Beacon Hill Roll Call tracks the length of time that the House and Senate were in session each week. Many legislators say that legislative sessions are only one aspect of the Legislature's job and that a lot of important work is done outside of the House and Senate chambers. They note that their jobs also involve committee work, research, constituent work and other matters that are important to their districts. Critics say that the Legislature does not meet regularly or long enough to debate and vote in public view on the thousands of pieces of legislation that have been filed. They note that the infrequency and brief length of sessions are misguided and lead to irresponsible late-night sessions and a mad rush to act on dozens of bills in the days immediately preceding the end of an annual session.

During the week of January 1-5, the House met for a total of 44 minutes and the Senate met for a total of two hours and five minutes.

Mon. Jan. 1 No House session
No Senate session

Tues. Jan. 2 House 11:03 a.m. to 11:10 a.m.
Senate 11:13 a.m. to 11:23 a.m.

Wed. Jan. 3 House 11:14 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.
Senate 11:12 a.m. to 11:44 a.m.

Thurs. Jan. 4 House 11:00 a.m. to 11:07 a.m.
Senate 11:08 a.m. to 12:31 p.m.

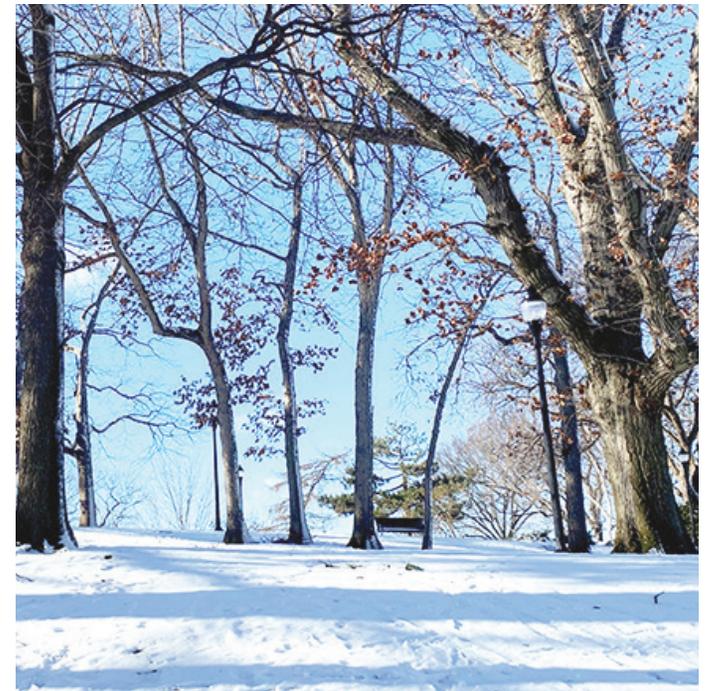
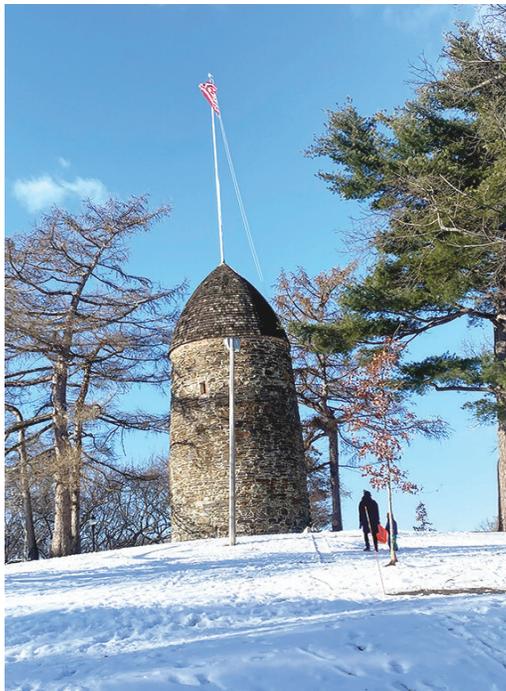
Fri. Jan. 5 No House session
No Senate session

Bob Katzen welcomes feedback at bob@beaconhillrollcall.com

First snow of 2024

The first snow of the season took place this past weekend, resulting in a snow emergency being called. Scenes from Powderhouse Park are shown here.

— Photos by Bobbie Toner



General snow emergency information

Sidewalk Shoveling: To ensure safe passage for all, property owners are responsible for removing snow and ice from sidewalks abutting their property within six daylight hours of the end of snowfall. Snow must be cleared down to the pavement and paths must be a minimum of 3 feet wide.

Avoid Parking within 20 Feet of an Intersection: To leave enough clearance for plows and emergency vehicles, cars parked within 20 feet of an intersection may be subject to ticketing and towing if they are deemed to be likely to restrict access. This regulation is enforced as needed and is especially important to adhere to on narrower streets.

Snow Shoveling Assistance: The Somerville Teen Shoveling program is a paid program for youth to shovel out seniors or persons with disabilities after a snowstorm in Somerville. Teens and homeowners are paired for the season. You must apply and be paired with teen shovelers well in advance of a storm. To enquire how to sign up for future storms, contact the Council on Aging at 617-625-6600 x2300.

Snow Emergency Parking Exceptions (Why some streets have even-side parking this season): A limited number of streets have even-side parking during snow emergencies always. Typically, these are one-way streets where year-round parking is only allowed on the even side due to space constraints. In some cases, they are streets that have parking on both sides of the street but that have no buildings on one side of the street for the duration of the plow route. In these cases, parking may only be allowed on the side of the street with homes. Please check signs on your street.

Plan Ahead: In winter, it's always good to plan ahead. Once an emergency is declared, you will have four hours to move your car. So, if you are traveling or working, park on the correct side before you leave just in case moving your car in time could be difficult.

Driveway Use: If you have access to a driveway, please consider using it during snow emergencies, or even sharing it with a neighbor or friend.

City Alerts: Community members are encouraged to sign up for the City's alert system to receive emergency phone, email, and/or text message alerts as well as important information for your neighborhood. Sign up for alerts at somervillema.gov/alerts or by calling 311 (617-666-3311 from cell phones or outside the city).

When are snow emergencies called? A snow emergency may be declared whenever four or more inches of snow are predicted. City officials closely monitor storm forecasts through various means, and use all available information to make an informed decision that takes into account forecasted snow accumulations, pavement temperatures, post-storm temperatures, existence of remaining snow from previous storms, and other factors.

How to stay informed about snow emergencies: Once a snow emergency has been declared, residents are notified via multiple lines of communication, including: City alerts, City Cable TV (Comcast Ch. 15 & 22, RCN Ch. 13, 15, & 613), local media (online, radio, print, TV, etc.), City social media including facebook.com/SomervilleCity, facebook.com/311Somerville, Twitter @SomervilleCity and @311Somerville, the City website somervillema.gov, and flashing blue lights activated at 22 key intersections in the city (when lights are flashing, a snow emergency is in effect).

For more information, please visit somervillema.gov/snow or contact 311.

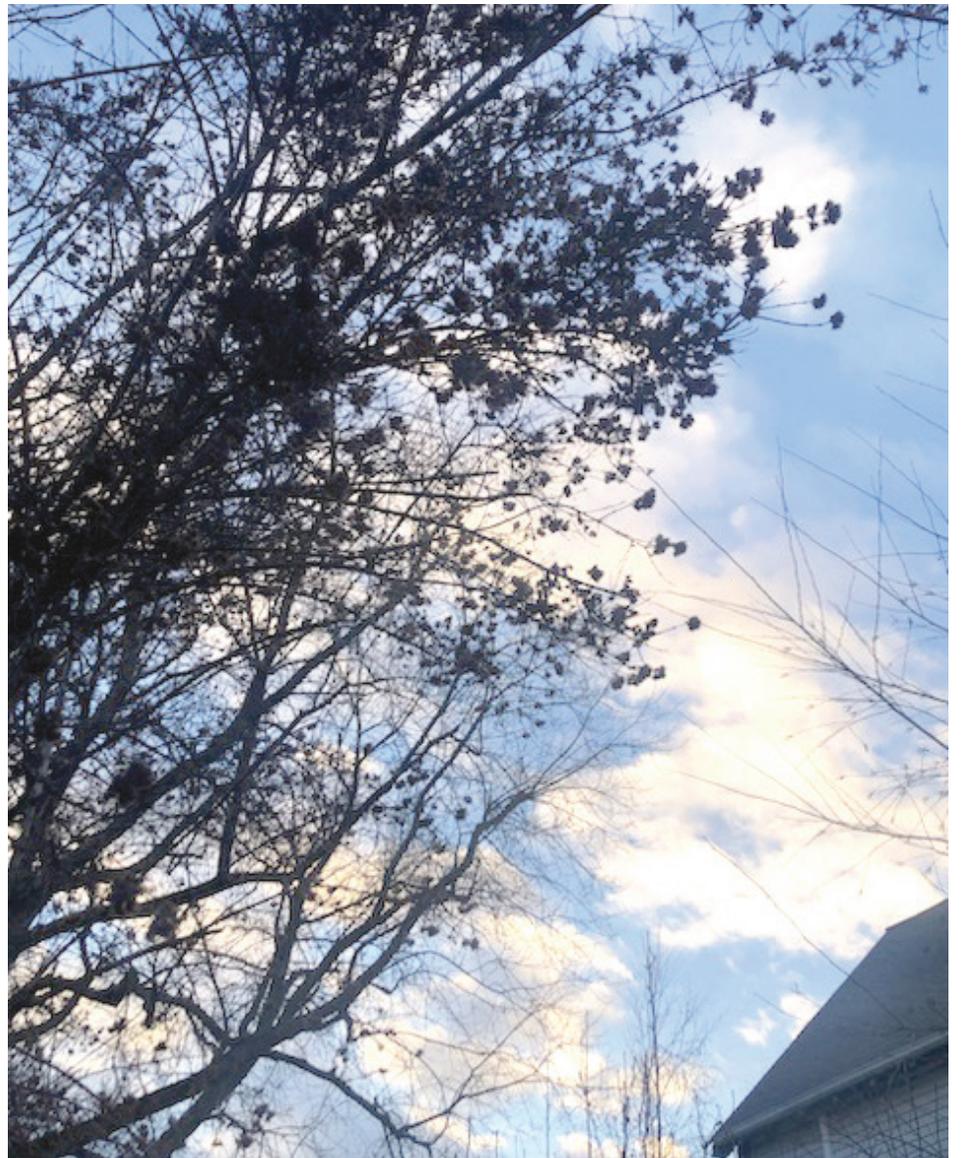


Tufts Classic this Sunday



Don't miss the fifth annual face-off between the Medford High School Mustangs and Somerville High School Highlanders girls' and boys' basketball teams at the Tufts Classic on Sunday, January 14 at the Cousens Gymnasium (161 College Avenue, Medford) on Tufts' Medford/Somerville campus. Admission is free but fans are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate.

Somerville through the eyes of Denise



Last night, last light...

— Photo by Denise Provost



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By Bobbygeorge Potaris



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On This Day in History

January 10

- 1645 – The Archbishop of Canterbury, William Laud, is beheaded on Tower Hill, accused of acting as an enemy of the British Parliament.
- 1811 – An uprising of over 400 slaves is put down in New Orleans. Sixty-six blacks are killed and their heads are strung up along the roads of the city.
- 1847 – General Stephen Kearny and Commodore Robert Stockton retake Los Angeles in the last California battle of the Mexican War.
- 1861 – Florida secedes from the Union.
- 1870 – John D. Rockefeller and his brother William establish the Standard Oil Company of Ohio.
- 1901 – The Automobile Club of America installs signs on major highways.
- 1918 – The House of Representatives passes legislation for women's suffrage.
- 1964 – Panama breaks ties with the U.S. and demands a revision of the canal treaty.
- 1984 – The United States and the Vatican establish full diplomatic relations for the first time in 117 years.

GovTV – Xfinity 22/Astound 13/613

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

7:00 AM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 9:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 10:00 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 11:00 AM SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
 11:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 3:00 PM Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant
 3:30 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
 4:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 5:10 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All
 5:30 PM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
 6:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 6:31 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:00 PM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 9:00 PM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 10:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 11:10 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All
 11:30 PM Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

12:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 1:00 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 2:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice IV
 8:00 AM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 8:31 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
 9:00 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 10:00 AM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
 12:30 PM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 1:05 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 7:00 PM City Council Meeting - LIVE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

12:00 AM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 1:10 AM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 2:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 6:30 AM Chair Yoga w/ Janine Duffy
 7:00 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 8:00 AM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 8:35 AM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
 9:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 9:30 AM SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
 10:00 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
 10:30 AM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 12:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 3:00 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 4:06 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #1
 4:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 6:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 8:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 9:01 PM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 10:00 PM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
 10:30 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 11:00 PM SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
 11:30 PM Historic Bicycle Ride

12:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 7:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 8:10 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:35 PM Somerville Museum: Access for All
 9:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 9:31 PM SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
 10:00 PM Three Kings Celebration
 11:00 PM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

12:00 AM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 2:00 AM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 7:00 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 8:00 AM Talking Business: Night Life
 8:30 AM Entrepreneur Spotlight at the Neighborhood Restaurant
 9:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 10:00 AM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 12:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting 12-12-23
 1:05 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 1:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 3:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 1-11-24
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 8:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
 8:30 AM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 9:04 AM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 11:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
 12:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 1:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 3:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 5:30 PM Somerville Museum: How the GI Bill Changed America
 6:36 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
 7:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:30 PM City Council Meeting 1-11-24

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

12:00 AM City Council Meeting 1-11-24
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice I
 8:00 AM City Council Spotlight: Willie Burnley, Jr.
 8:30 AM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 9:04 AM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 11:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 12:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
 12:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 1:30 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 3:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 5:31 PM Haitian Day of Reflection & Resiliency
 6:36 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
 7:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:30 PM City Council Meeting 1-11-24

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

12:00 AM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 12:34 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 1:30 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
 2:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 7:00 AM MLK Virtual Celebration 2021
 8:00 AM Domestic Violence Vigil 2023
 8:38 AM Somerville Civic Day: If I Were Mayor

9:00 AM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 10:00 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 11:00 AM School Committee Update: Sarah Phillips
 11:30 AM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 12:01 PM City Council Meeting 1-11-24
 4:00 PM MLK Virtual Celebration 2021
 5:00 PM Chamber of Commerce Awards Dinner 2023
 6:30 PM SomerViva en Espanol: Casa de la Cultura
 7:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 7:30 PM First Flag Raising 2024
 8:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 9:01 PM Press Conference of Secured \$2.4M for Clarendon Hill Housing w/ Ayanna Pressley
 10:00 PM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

12:00 AM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 7:00 AM Yoga with Jenn Falk - Practice II
 8:00 AM Cultural Capacity Forum
 9:05 AM First Flag Raising 2024
 10:00 AM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024
 12:00 PM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 1:00 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 1:30 PM Historic Bicycle Ride
 2:00 PM City Council Meeting 1-11-24
 6:00 PM MLK Virtual Celebration 2021
 7:00 PM Senior Circuit: Holiday Food & Eating
 7:30 PM Fit 4 Life Home Workout w/ Phelan #2
 8:00 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 8:31 PM 2024 Organizational Meeting 1-2-24
 9:05 PM Talking Business: Night Life
 9:30 PM SomerViva an Kreyol: SomerNova ap Travay pou Transfòme Lavi Jenès la nan Somerville
 10:01 PM City of Somerville Inauguration 2024

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

12:00 AM Haitian Day of Reflection & Resiliency
 1:45 AM First Flag Raising 2024

EdTV - Xfinity 15/Astound 15/ 614

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

8:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Swampscott
 9:30 AM WHCIS Kindergarten Winter Concert
 10:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 11:30 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 1:00 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 4:00 PM SHS Winter Concert
 5:30 PM All-City Middle School Winter Concert
 6:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Swampscott
 7:30 PM WHCIS Kindergarten Winter Concert
 8:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 10:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen

THURSDAY, JANUARY 11

2:00 AM SHS Winter Concert
 3:30 AM All-City Middle School Winter Concert
 8:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 9:30 AM All-City Middle School Winter Concert
 10:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Whittier
 11:30 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Lynn Classical
 1:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford
 2:30 PM WHCIS 1-3 Winter Concert
 3:00 PM WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert
 4:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Swampscott
 5:08 PM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 7:30 PM WHCIS Kindergarten Winter Concert
 8:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 10:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

12:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 2:00 AM SHS Winter Concert
 3:20 AM SHS Girls Basketball vs Chelsea
 8:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy

9:30 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 11:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 1:00 PM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert
 2:00 PM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 3:00 PM WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert
 4:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Swampscott
 5:08 PM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 6:05 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 7:30 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 9:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 11:00 PM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

12:00 AM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 1:00 AM WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert
 2:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Swampscott
 8:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
 8:30 AM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 9:30 AM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert
 10:30 AM Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert
 11:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 12:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 2:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 3:30 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 5:00 PM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert
 6:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
 6:30 PM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 7:30 PM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert

8:30 PM Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert
 9:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Methuen
 10:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14

12:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 1:30 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 3:00 AM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert
 8:00 AM School Committee Meeting 1-8-24
 10:30 AM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
 12:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn English 12-19-23
 1:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 3:00 PM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 4:00 PM WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert
 5:00 PM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert
 6:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 7:30 PM SHS Girls Basketball Whittier
 9:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Lynn English 12-19-23
 10:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy

MONDAY, JANUARY 15

12:00 AM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 1:00 AM WHCIS 4-8 Winter Concert
 2:00 AM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert
 3:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 8:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
 8:30 AM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 9:30 AM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert

10:30 AM Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert
 11:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 12:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 2:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere
 3:30 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 5:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
 5:30 PM Kennedy School 4-8 Winter Concert
 6:30 PM Argenziano School 5th-8th gr Winter Concert
 7:30 PM Argenziano School PreK-4th Winter Concert
 8:00 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 9:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 11:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Revere

TUESDAY, JANUARY 16

12:30 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 2:00 AM SHS Winter Concert
 8:00 AM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
 8:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 10:00 AM Brown School Winter Concert
 11:00 AM SHS Boys Basketball vs Chelsea
 12:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 2:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford 1-14-24
 4:00 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford 1-14-24
 6:00 PM Kennedy School K-3rd Winter Concert
 6:30 PM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 8:00 PM Brown School Winter Concert
 9:00 PM SHS Girls Basketball vs Medford 1-14-24
 10:30 PM SHS Boys Basketball vs Medford 1-14-24
 12:00 AM SHS Hockey vs Boston Latin Academy
 1:30 AM SHS Hockey vs Methuen



OFF THE SHELF

by Doug Holder

Journalist Dan Kennedy talks about digital community newspapers and the end of the 'ink-stained' wretch

Well, I have worked in the trenches of community journalism for about 23 years now. Physical newspapers have gone the way of digital media. But still, I must admit, I get the physical *New York Times* and *The Boston Globe* at my favorite coffee shop. I must look like a historical reenactor to many of the younger folks out there.

I remember my father (an advertising Mad Man in New York) brought home a host of newspapers, and I became a junkie at a young age. My father was even afraid I would become a Collier Brothers hermit, like the very men who drowned in a sea of newspapers in their Harlem tenement building.

There are no more ink-stained wretches working the presses; the clean and efficient internet have to a good degree replaced the slap of the paper on the pavement with its yelping headlines, as we saw in so many old movies. So, I was interested to interview Dan Kennedy, a former journalist at the Boston Phoenix and Professor of Journalism at Northeastern University, (who along with his colleague Ellen Clegg) collaborated on a new book, *What Works in Community News*. This study deals with community journalism, digital media, and how community newspapers can survive in this bottom-line milieu we live in.

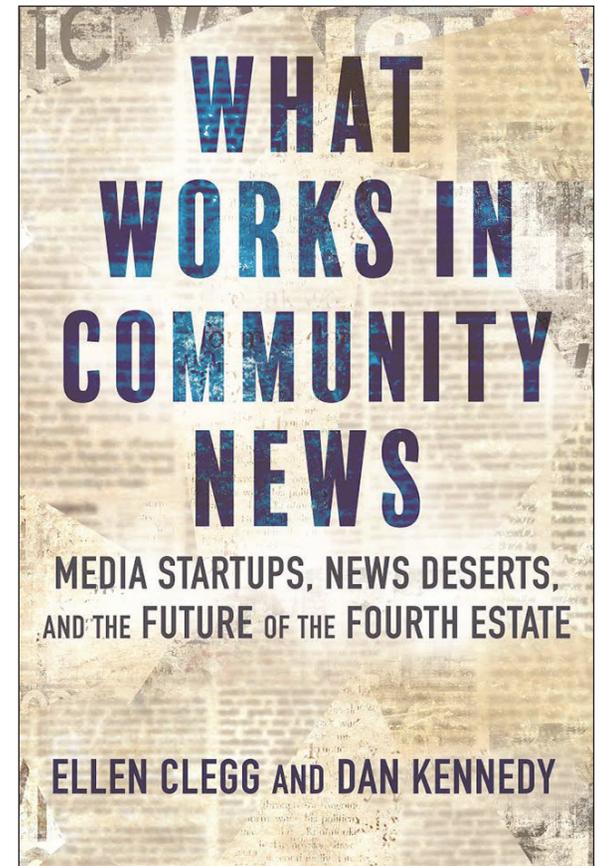
Doug Holder: First off, why did you guys feel the need to write this book?

Dan Kennedy: I've been working in this space for years, it's actually my third book about the future of local news. Ellen Clegg wore a lot of hats at *The Boston Globe*, and at one time ran the Sunday regional sections the paper used to have that covered local news. So, the fate of community journalism is a real passion of ours.

About 2,900 papers, mostly weeklies, have closed since 2005, according to a study by Northwestern University, and corporate chain ownership is squeezing the life out of many of those that remain. What we wanted to do was shine a spotlight on independent projects that have risen up to fill the gap. Most of them are digital startups and most are nonprofits. But we also looked at for-profit newspapers, tiny radio stations and a large public television operation. What unites all of them is a passion to serve their communities with reliable news and information.

DH: You write that that community newspapers are essential for "self-governing" democracies. How so?

DK: Over the past couple of generations, we've



lost our connection to civic life, and the decline of community journalism has a lot to do with that. How can you cast a meaningful ballot for mayor, city council, select board, school committee and the like if there's no reliable source of news? Who is holding the police department accountable? How are you going to find out about the apartment building that's being proposed for your neighborhood?

Ellen and I also believe that local news can help us overcome the intense political polarization that has come to define national issues. If we can relearn the art of cooperation at the local level, we may discover that we all have more in common than we thought.

DH: How important is it for the print newspaper to survive with all the digital opportunities we have now?

DK: It is not important at all. Most of the projects we look at are digital-only. In fact, Ellen is the co-founder of a startup nonprofit, *Brookline.News*, that is digital-only.

DH: I believe you started out in a community newspaper in the area. Are these good training grounds, a sort of minor league of journalism?

DK: Yes, I worked at *The Daily Times Chronicle* in Woburn during the '80s, and I'm happy to say that it's still owned by the Haggerty Continued on page 23

Lyrical SOMERVILLE

edited by Doug Holder

Susan Isla Tepper is a twenty-year writer who works in all genres. Currently, she has focused on playwrighting. Her play *The Crooked Heart*, concerning painter Jackson Pollock, had a staged-reading at the Irish Repertory Theatre in autumn, 2022. www.susantepper.com/theatre. Several other plays are making the rounds in NYC and Ireland. Tepper has been named a "Brand Ambassador" for *The Galway Review*. She has published 11 books of fiction and poetry. Several new novels will be released later this winter and on into the year. Her many awards include a Pulitzer Prize Nomination, over 20 Pushcart Nominations, a Winner in the Francis Ford Coppola Award for the Novel (2003), Second Place Winner in Story/South, and other honors. Her short stories aired at NPR, and were staged at Inter/Act Theatre in Philadelphia. Before taking up the writing life, Tepper worked as a method actor, professional singer with several known rock and country artists, a cable TV producer for Time Warner, flight attendant for TWA, Marketing Manager at Northwest Airlines in NYC, interior decorator, rescue worker and more. This varied life, Tepper believes, has done a lot to inform her writings.



Bushwhacked

At the end of the sorrow
there lies a road
bushwhacked blazing blue
A shade
shown only in dreams
so bright
they'd blind a person—
drag them to their knees.
Only dogs can take it
and certain species of birds.

— Susan Isla Tepper

To have your work considered for the Lyrical send it to:

Doug Holder, 25 School St.; Somerville, MA 02143. dougholder@post.harvard.edu

Newstalk CONT. FROM PG 7

education, production, and live performances. Help develop the vision and guiding principles for the Somerville Armory as they transition it from private ownership to public stewardship. They are looking for the voices of diverse performing artists who have connections to Somerville, residents, and community partners to participate in this upcoming meeting series. Read more: <https://voice.somervillema.gov/armory-master-plan>. **Meeting I: Our Arts Ecosystem, January 24, 6:00 p.m.** at Warehouse XI, 11 Sanborn Ct., Somerville.

Give feedback on **Somerville's Climate Forward Plan Update**. Launched in 2018, Climate Forward established 13 top strategies to reduce Somerville's contribution to climate change and create a more climate-resilient community. It's updated every five years to meet changing needs and seize new strategies to meet our goals. Now at the five-year mark, the city has released the latest draft goals, strategies, and actions for the Climate Forward plan update. Review the plan and submit comments on what's proposed and prioritized: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m_EGwkHa7mGJ9xx-j5crnZeLVbCV3W3yW/edit Comments will be accepted until **Wednesday, January 31**.

Green & Open Somerville (G&OS) is hosting a presentation on rat poison, with

Save Arlington Wildlife founder **Laura Kiesel**. The presentation is **Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.** at the **Somerville Central Library** (79 Highland Ave). They will be recording it and posting it online afterwards.

Do you know how close you live to a FAB district? Do you care about artists' studios, rehearsal spaces, artisanal production, or small manufacturing? Attend **Arts Zoning: the FAB District and the Mayor's Proposed Changes**, a **Ward 2 meeting** to learn more about proposed changes for allowable uses in existing FAB district buildings and which buildings could be affected by them. Live and in person at **11 Sanborn Court, aka WAREHOUSE XI**, Remote hybrid link: <https://tinyurl.com/FABzoningNM1>. Join to learn more and share your feedback. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The **Fuel Assistance Program**, also known as the **Home Energy Assistance Program**, helps low-income households pay their winter heating bills **between November 1 and April 30**. Renters and homeowners in Somerville are eligible to apply if they meet federal income guidelines. Learn more at somervillema.gov/heatingassistance.

Join the **Somerville Council on Aging's Friendly Caller Program**. They have many wonderful volunteers who are waiting to give you a call. Whether you are

looking to make a new friend or would just like a friendly chat to look forward to every week, this program has you covered. Call **Natasha Naim** at 617-625-6600, ext. 2317 to learn more about the program and to sign up.

Is your teen looking to make some **extra money**? The city's **Snow Shoveling Program** is hiring youth to assist shoveling seniors and homeowners with disabilities out after snowstorms this winter. Teens and homeowners are paired for the season. After each storm, the homeowner will contact their assigned youth to request shoveling services. Somerville teens ages 14 to 19 are welcome to apply. Learn more and apply at somervillema.gov/shoveling. Looking for snow shoveling services? Contact **Debby Higgins** at dhiggins@somervillema.gov.

In preparation for the cold months ahead, the **Somerville Homeless Coalition** is in urgent need of **winter clothing and apparel** to keep their clients warm and safe. Donations of socks, hats, jackets, hand warmers, sweatpants, and more will go a long way towards keeping the most vulnerable clients protected against the unpredictable New England weather. All donations can be dropped off at their **Engagement Center** located at 1 Davis Square, Somerville between and Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., closed each day from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. for lunch. Help keep our neighbors safe

this winter.

Help keep our waterways clean in your neighborhood by joining Somerville's **Adopt-a-Drain program**. A storm drain clear of leaves, trash or other debris allows water to flow into the catch basin sump and can prevent flooding. When you adopt a drain (or drains), you commit to caring for a local storm drain of your choice by checking on it before and after heavy rain, wind, or snow. Bonus perk: you can also give it a name. Claim your drain at somerville.mysticdrains.org.

The **Center for the Arts at the Armory** offers a weekly winter market with 71+ local food vendors with the best locally grown and regionally produced foods, including fresh produce, cheese, eggs, meats, fish, breads, tamales, pastries, chocolate, skincare products, and more. The market accepts SNAP/EBT and HIP benefits. They also offer a \$15 SNAP match to customers each week. Visit the **Somerville Winter Farmers Market** on **Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**, 191 Highland Ave. **Through April 6**. For a list of weekly events visit www.somwintermarket.org.

Don't forget, if you would like to subscribe to receive a **digital edition** of our paper, go directly online to our website over to the right side and fill out your email address to receive a free, full PDF copy of the paper.

Off The Shelf CONT. FROM PG 22

family, who founded the paper in 1901.

I don't think of community journalism as the minor leagues at all, and I wish more young people would build their careers around local news.

DH: Many fiction and poetry writers (Hemingway for one) have said that newspaper writing gave them good skills for their creative endeavors. What is your take on this?

DK: Learning to write quickly and communicate clearly are essential skills for journalists, and I agree that those skills can be transferred to other forms of writing. I don't write fiction or poetry, but I have written four books, and I rely heavily on what I learned in my 20s. This is Ellen's third book. That's a pretty high level of productivity, and our background as newspaper journalists has a lot to do with our ability to crank it out. I'll leave it to others to judge the deathlessness of our prose.

DH: Many community newspapers are transforming into nonprofits. I know the paper I am arts editor for, *The Somerville Times*, didn't see the need to go nonprofit. Do you think non-profits are the way to go?

DK: Nonprofit is a business model, just like for-profit. There are hundreds of local news startups across the country, and most of them are technically for-profits, one- or two-person operations that are almost more passion projects than they are real businesses. Ellen and I found, though, that most of the larger projects with real reporting capacity are nonprofit, because in the current environment that's where the money is. In fact, two of projects that we write about, *The Colorado Sun* and *Santa Cruz Local*, switched from for-profit to nonprofit after our deadline.

The problem with for-profit is that advertising brings in very little money compared to years past. A healthy nonprofit news organization is generally built on top of a three-legged stool: large gifts in the form of grants and donations from high-net-worth individuals, which I've learned is nonprofit-speak for "rich people"; voluntary membership fees from readers, sometimes in exchange for extra goodies like a newsletter or a T-shirt; and what is often referred to as "earned income" in the form of advertising – again, to use nonprofit-speak, "underwriting" – and,

in some cases, an events business.

I also want to mention the hybrid model, by which a for-profit news site either works with a nonprofit or has a nonprofit arm of its own so that it can accept tax-deductible donations to support certain types of public interest reporting. That's what *The Colorado Sun* was doing before it went fully nonprofit. It's also a model that's being used by a number of other news outlets such as the *Storm Lake Times Pilot* in Iowa, *The Mendocino Voice* in Northern California and, closer to home, *The Provincetown Independent*.

DH: Twenty years from now, do you think we will see a community newspaper void or a thriving landscape?

DK: On the one hand, I think things are going to get worse before they get better because so many papers are still under the control of corporate chains and hedge funds. On the other hand, I do think things are eventually going to get better. Ellen and I are especially hopeful that our book will serve as a roadmap for folks across the country who'll learn about these projects and say, "Hey, we can do this."

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